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VOLUME LXIII, NUMBER 19059

THE JERUSALEM POST

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Ministry will seek back-to-work orders if teachers strike

HAIM SHAPIRO

EDUCATION Ministry Director-General Shimon Shoshani yesterday threatened to seek back-to-work orders for teachers, if they strike on the first day of school.

He said the issue of security has nothing to do with either the educational system or teachers' working conditions.

School is due to start on Friday for 1.7 million children, barring a strike by either teachers or parents groups over plans for the police to provide protection for the country's schools.

The teachers unions have threatened to strike unless every school has a guard, and the National Parents Organization has said classes would not be held in any school which does not have a security guard.

In response Police Inspector-General Asaf Hefetz said yesterday that plans for mobile police protection of the schools are far superior to the previous system of a guard at every school. Many of the guards were not professional, he said.

Shoshani predicted that by the year 2000 there would be two million children in the school system. He said special efforts are being made to improve the teaching of technology in the system.

Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein said there was still a problem in teaching everything relating to behavior and that this year particular emphasis would be placed on instilling the value of courtesy.

In another press conference, Parents Organization chairman Shai Lachman threatened not only a strike over the issue of school security, but a parents revolt over unreasonable school fees. He said the organization had been unable to reach an agreement with the ministry over the acceptable level of school charges this year.

Lachman said the ministry no longer set a maximum fee allowable for school trips. He said the organization, together with the Consumer Protection Authority, had issued a guide to parents, advising them of their rights regarding school payments.

Closed circuit TV to protect schools, Page 3



Likud MK Ariel Sharon last night addresses a rally opposite the Prime Minister's Office ending a week-long hunger strike by him and 39 other anti-government protesters (story, Page 2). (Brian Hendler)

PA claims apprehended Hamas man planned to attack capital bus station

ALON PINKAS and agencies

PALESTINIAN security forces arrested a Hamas militant, his beard already shaved off and explosives ready, just hours before he was to leave on a suicide bombing mission in Jerusalem yesterday, the PLO said.

The man, 22, was arrested with four others in a sweep in which at least 30 Hamas members were detained, the PLO said yesterday.

"The Preventive Security

Service caught him. He was fully prepared - he had explosives and had shaved his beard... and arranged to travel to the central bus station in Jerusalem," PLO official Sufayn Abu Zaide told Israel Television.

"He planned to blow himself up there at 3 a.m. [yesterday]," he said.

According to Palestinian sources in the Gaza Strip, the

arrests were part of a periodic crackdown on Hamas activities in strongholds in the south of the Strip.

Some of the arrested militants had also planned to attack Palestinian Authority officials and police officers, police said. Weapons, explosives, and thousands of rounds of ammunition were also confiscated in the crackdown,

they said.

PA Chairman Yasser Arafat confirmed yesterday afternoon that Hamas activists were rounded up, but seemed surprised the figure was only 30.

"Just 30? More than that," he was quoted by news agencies as saying in Gaza.

Meanwhile, the IDF announced it would lift the week-long closure of Jericho at 4 this morning.

Shevardnadze escapes assassination attempt

TBILISI (AP) - Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze survived a powerful car bomb in his motorcade yesterday, suffering minor cuts and a psychological blow to his efforts to stabilize the country.

Several people were injured and six or seven government cars were blown to pieces when a car packed with explosives blew up outside Georgia's parliament - just moments before Shevardnadze was to leave the building for his car.

He was heading to a ceremonial signing of Georgia's new constitution.

"The entire nation will rally against terrorists and terrorism," Shevardnadze later told television reporters at the First Republican Hospital, where he was treated for cuts to the face from flying glass. "I am sure we'll settle the score with terrorists."

Best known as the former Soviet foreign minister who helped orchestrate perestroika under Mikhail Gorbachev, Shevardnadze has led his native country since 1992.

Georgia has been wracked by crime, coups and civil war. And Shevardnadze, Georgia's former Communist boss, has made many enemies while trying to dilute the power of assorted warlords and secessionists.

He recently has appeared to be making progress in stemming the chaos. In recent months, he ordered the main paramilitary group, the Mekhedroni, to disarm, and pushed through the constitution.

The document creates a presidency with greater powers than Shevardnadze now has as head of state and chairman of parliament. He is expected to run in November presidential elections.

"It's clear Shevardnadze's enemies tried to assassinate the head of our state to stop



Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze talks to reporters yesterday in the hospital. (Reuters)

the signing ceremony," said Shevardnadze's spokesman, Ramaz Sakvarelidze. He said Shevardnadze was in a hallway when the explosion hit at about 6:40 p.m.,

filling the corridor with smoke and glass. All the windows on one side of the building, including those of Shevardnadze's suite of offices, were shattered.

A few heavily wounded people were wheeled into the hospital on stretchers.

The wounded reportedly included Shevardnadze's chief of staff and some of his bodyguards.

Shevardnadze resigned as Soviet foreign minister in December 1990 and returned to lead Georgia after its first elected president, the late Zviad Gamsakhurdia, was ousted in a coup. Shevardnadze had been invited back by a strange coalition of warlords and democrats.

"When I returned to Georgia, it was committing suicide," he once said, adding that his fate and his country's were inextricably intertwined.

"I knew I was jumping into a cauldron," he said.

Nicknamed the "Silver Fox," the 67-year-old Shevardnadze is known as a survivor. During Georgia's 1993 war in the breakaway Abkhazia region, he went to the front line and survived several near-misses from shells.

He also has survived some controversial alliances in his efforts to keep Georgia whole, and even many of his critics in Georgia consider him the only man who can bring the country through its crises.

Parliament and cabinet called an emergency session, and tanks surrounded the television center and parliament building.

Shevardnadze is considered in delicate health, and hours after the blast remained hospitalized.

Biran: IDF, PA can't share control of Hebron

DAVID MAKOVSKY

IT is "impossible" from a security standpoint for both the IDF and the Palestinian Police to share control of Hebron, OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Ilan Biran said yesterday.

His remarks pointed to differences within the Israeli team negotiating with the Palestinians on security.

"Hebron is the type of place that is so complex that, in my view, it is impossible to have two authorities operating in the same location," Biran said in an interview on

ITV Channel 2 last night. Israeli and PLO negotiators are likely to agree next week to divide security authority over the city between the IDF and the PA, senior Israeli officials said.

Hebron is considered to be one of, if not the last major hurdle before an agreement on expanding autonomy is reached.

The interview was the first time that Biran, who is known to be privately critical about some security aspects of the agreement, has publicly spoken out about an issue so sensitive to the negotiations.

He refused to comment on reports he might resign if he does not get his way on security issues.

The interview, according to sources, was cleared both by Chief of General Staff Lt.-Gen. Amnon Lipkin-Shahak and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

In response to alleged comments by unnamed senior negotiators that he might be "crossing the line" and undermining the implementation of the autonomy deal, Biran retorted that it is "a bald-face defamation."

"I admit there are differences between us. There is no unanimity of views. There is a struggle," he declared. "For example, I am responsible for security. Security is very complex. Every little detail has an impact on the actual implementation. Therefore,

there is no room to give in."

He suggested that he believes the IDF - in which he admitted there are different views - is entitled to a say on the shape of the negotiation, since the hardest part of the deal will be its implementation on the ground.

"Those who say that signing an agreement is [the essence] are completely mistaken," he said. "Signing the agreement is just the beginning. Problems crop up when it comes to patterns of terrorism or how the agreement is understood by the two entities, the two sovereignties that exist in the same complex and difficult 5,500 sq. km."

Hebron has been of central concern to the Palestinians. Palestinian negotiator Ahmed Oreia has warned there will be no elections in Hebron, if there is no IDF redeployment there.

While Israeli negotiators say it is difficult to have the Palestinian Police take control of part of the city and still have the IDF protect the 400 Jewish settlers there, the Palestinians say it is unfair that the future of the 120,000 people who live in Hebron and the surrounding area should be determined by a few settlers.

Earlier this week, Oreia reportedly said he does not mind if the IDF stays in part of Hebron, as long as it is written in the agreement that the arrangement is "exceptional and temporary."

Both Israeli and Palestinian sources said that Hebron is difficult not only because it is the only place where settlers live inside an Arab city, but also because it is home to some of the most radical Israelis and Palestinians in the territories.

Sources have said that the compromise envisioned would have the IDF patrol the Jewish areas of the city, the Cave of Machpela, and the road to Kiryat Arba. The PA would patrol most of the rest of Hebron, and the unarmed multinational force that

(Continued on Page 2)

Arafat adviser: Jerusalem has always been an Arab city

HAIM SHAPIRO

ON the eve of the celebration of 3,000 years since King David made Jerusalem his capital, Yasser Arafat's senior religious adviser has announced that Jerusalem has always been an Arab city.

"Jerusalem has been an Arab city throughout history," Abdel Salam Abu Shuhde, deputy director of the Palestinian Authority's Waqf, told an interreligious gathering in Jerusalem yesterday.

Shuhde also related to the definition of jihad, a term used

by Arafat. Jihad, Shuhde said, is the supreme effort of purification for the sake of God. It does not mean the use of force, he said, adding that when there is opposition to jihad, force is permissible.

In an apparent defense of the PA security services, which recently acted against Hamas activists, Shuhde said it is necessary for every religious group to consolidate its piece of land. For laws to be accepted, it is necessary to

(Continued on Page 2)

Cabinet: All working women to receive tax credit

AS of January 1, all working women, married or unmarried, will receive an additional one-half income tax credit point, worth about NIS 63 a month, the cabinet decided yesterday.

The decision followed a revised proposal by the Treasury, which had originally suggested canceling the full credit point granted to working married women. However, a storm of protest led to a reconsideration.

Some 240,000 women who did not previously receive a tax credit

will now benefit. In addition, the cabinet decided that working mothers would receive a tax credit point for each child; until now they have received a credit only for each odd-numbered child.

According to the Treasury, the new proposals represent a fairer division of benefits, which have hitherto only been granted to married women.

However, the proposal will cost the Treasury NIS 240 million more than it had previously anticipated, and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat said that by the middle of October he would bring a proposal to increase the state's revenues by an equivalent amount to the cabinet.

The Histadrut decided yesterday to fight the Treasury's attempt to cut by a half a point the

NEIL COHEN and MICHAEL YUDELMAN

tax exemption granted married working women at the beginning of the year, as partial compensation for the sharp increase in health tax.

The Histadrut found an unexpected ally in the Likud's coordinator in the Knesset Finance Committee, MK Dan Tichon, who lashed out at the government for "deceiving married working women by robbing them unjustly of half a credit point. The credit point was given women as a compensation for the increased cost imposed on them with the advent of the National Health Insurance Law."

Tichon charged the government is "causing instability in the

economy" and said it is "incapable of finding the NIS 240 million it needs to cover its deficit."

Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet also objected to cutting the tax exemption for married working women, pointing out that the bottom line of the Treasury's decision is that more women have lost than gained.

At an emergency meeting of trade union and Na'amat representatives at Histadrut headquarters, trade union section chairman MK Amir Peretz blasted the Finance Ministry for its plan to balance the state budget by cutting down the credit given working married women.

Peretz stressed that the credit point was given to women because they deserved it, and not as charity.

Na'amat chairwoman Ofra Friedman lambasted the government's tax policy, but commended the Treasury's decision to add a half a credit point to unmarried working women, who until now received no tax compensation for maintaining an independent household with all its expenses.

It was decided to set up a joint struggle committee, which would fight with every public and organizational means against any attempt by the Treasury to harm working women.

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Married woman without children	1	1 1/2
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Married woman + 2 children	3	3 1/2
Married woman + 3 children	4	4 1/2
Married woman + 4 children	5	5 1/2

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Opposition hunger strike ends Ze'evi won't be prosecuted for threat to use violence

A CROWD estimated at between 1,500 and 2,500 took part in an anti-government rally at Jerusalem's Wohl Rose Garden last night, marking the end of a 40-person hunger strike during the week-long mourning period for victims of the Jerusalem bomb blast.

Likud MK Ariel Sharon, greeted with a loud ovation and chants of "Arik, Arik," told the crowd that rather than requesting wanted Hamas members believed to be in Jericho, "We need to go in there and finish them off, as well as the terror infrastructure."

Sharon said it makes no sense for Israel to request the extradition from the US of Hamas leader Mousa Abu Marzook, "while here, in Jericho and Gaza, wanted murderers are roaming free."

Referring to yesterday's incident near the entrance to Jericho - where some 200 Palestinians

rioted against the closure clamped on the city, chased three border policemen from their post, and burned its Israeli flag - Sharon said that had he been in charge, he would have given the soldiers an order to "shoot to wound."

Hundreds of policemen and border policemen formed a human wall around the Prime Minister's Office across the street from the demonstration. A water cannon was brought to the scene, as were police on horseback. The police, who have come under a great deal of criticism for not wearing identification tags at right-wing demonstrations, had their names hand-written on tags they wore on their shoulders.

Sharon both started and ended the demonstration with appeals to the crowd not to get into any

confrontations with the police. He complained, however, that despite an agreement demonstrators had with police, it did not allow cars into the government compound, forcing people to walk long distances to the demonstration. Midway through the protest, the police spokesman said, cars were allowed into the compound.

Although there were no physical confrontations between police and demonstrators, the allegedly brutal behavior of police at previous demonstrations was the subject of many of the speeches.

"What is happening to the Israel Police?" asked NRP MK Shaul Yahalom. "A government that has truth on its side is not afraid of demonstrations, but stands firm and explains its position... But this hypocritical government

sends the police to every small demonstration to scare people away from protesting, to close off streets, to make it so they can not get here."

Ariel Bachrach, whose son Ohad was killed last month by terrorists in Wadi Kelt, said he has no illusions the hunger strike would influence the government to change its course. "If we would all die from the hunger strike it would not move them [the government]," he said, adding that his reason for participating was to "shake the country from its apathy."

Nearly a dozen people spoke at the two-hour rally and before the speeches all 40 hunger strikers were introduced to the crowd. The loudest ovations were reserved for former Tehiya MK Goula Cohen, Efrat's Rabbi Shlomo Riskin, Moleket MK Rehavam Ze'evi, and Sharon.

POLICE Minister Moshe Shahal said yesterday charges will not be pressed against MK Rehavam Ze'evi (Moleket), who said in the Knesset Monday that if the police use tear gas against demonstrators, "we will consider this live ammunition and respond accordingly."

Ze'evi also said that if the opposition returns to power it will settle accounts with police who have allegedly beat right-wing demonstrators.

At a Tel Aviv press conference, Shahal said these statements constitute a threat to the police, but that the police have no intention of censoring speech. He said that he consulted with Attorney-General Michael Ben-Yair about the matter.

HERB KEINON

Justice Minister David Liba'i also addressed Ze'evi's comments during a swearing-in ceremony for newly appointed judges at the President's Residence. "I want to extend warm greetings to the police, who are working according to law to enforce the law."

"And I warn against questioning the obligation to obey the police, or attempts to abandon police to violence, slander, or threats."

Ze'evi stood by his comments in an interview with Israel Radio, saying that at a recent demonstration he witnessed policemen beating women, children, and the elderly who were standing on sidewalks and not involved in the

protest. This, he said, but was "sadism for the sake of sadism."

"Most police think like we do, and say so in private," Ze'evi said. "The wonderful police do holy work, but there are a few among them - including officers, and it begins with the officers - who do horrible things. These police will be in our black book and will be brought to judgment."

Referring to his comments about tear gas, Ze'evi said, "Jews using gas against other Jews in the Jewish state is the craziest thing possible... I would also protest if it was used against the left."

As to what the protesters would do if tear gas is fired against them, Ze'evi said, "I'll tell you when we get to that."

Planned meeting with Arafat gets NY rabbis in trouble

MARILYN HENRY

A GROUP of New York rabbis, armed with a resolution in support of the peace process, ran smack into its maelstrom yesterday when it was learned that some had planned to meet today with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat.

The visit with Arafat in Gaza "was not on the itinerary that we worked out on Friday," Rabbi Gilbert Rosenthal, executive director of the New York Board of Rabbis, said in New York.

Last night, the trip's organizer, the Tel Aviv-based Center for Peace, was trying to salvage the visit, although one delegation member said flatly, "It's off."

Rabbi Jay Rosenbaum, head of the delegation - with Orthodox, Conservative, and Reform members - noted on its arrival in Jerusalem on Monday that while they have diverse and often antagonistic views, they are "united in the cause of peace."

Some members of the delegation wanted to meet with Arafat, although the meeting did not have the board's support. It was believed that any encounter could be misinterpreted.

The delegation met yesterday

morning with the protesters outside the office of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, including Rabbi Shlomo Riskin of Efrat, who previously served a congregation in New York.

"We told them that what opinions we form will embrace their concerns," said one member of the delegation.

Adding that the rabbinate is Israel "is our natural partner," he said the government had asked the delegation to condemn the rabbinic statement telling soldiers to disobey orders.

"We refused to meddle in the domain where religion and politics meet in another country," he said. "We are spiritual leaders entering a politically charged domain," he said. "We're not here to be commentators on the fine details of Oslo 1 and Oslo 2."

Under the auspices of the Foreign Ministry, the rabbis met with President Ezer Weizman, Rabin, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Deputy Foreign Minister Eli Dagan, and Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg. They also met with Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu.



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat takes a walk near Gaza City beach with tourism Minister Uzi Baram after their meeting yesterday. (AP)

Baram and Arafat discuss joint tourism plans

Jerusalem Post Staff

TOURISM Minister Uzi Baram met yesterday with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij, who is in charge of tourism for the PA. It was agreed that a committee will be established to deal with a master plan for joint tourism between Israel and the autonomous areas.

One of the central issues involved is cooperation on events for the 2,000th anniversary of Christianity.

Arafat said that he views cooperation in tourism as important

adding that he is waiting for Palestinian entrepreneurs to come forth.

Baram also said that he would be pleased to approach international investors with regard to the construction of hotels along the coast of Gaza - since this would contribute to the peace process, create employment and bring calm to the region.

Arafat said he would examine the matter after the Israeli and Palestinian teams conclude their talks on the second phase of the settlement.

Burg to ask Swiss to return Jewish money

Jerusalem Post Staff

JEWISH Agency chairman Avraham Burg is to travel to Switzerland next week to meet with the Swiss president and banking leaders, whom he will ask to return to the Jewish people money taken during the Holocaust by the Nazis and deposited in Swiss accounts.

After his meetings in Switzerland, Burg is to travel to Belgium to meet its banking leaders and present a similar request.

Upon taking office six months ago, Burg also became the co-chair of the World Jewish Restoration Organization, along with Edgar Bronfman.

Many Jewish organizations belong to the WJRO, set up to reclaim property confiscated from Jews during the Holocaust.

Experts estimate there are hundreds of millions of dollars

worth of Jewish money in Swiss bank accounts.

There may also be valuables and works of art, especially those belonging to Hungarian Jews, in accounts opened by Nazi officials to deposit bribes they received from Jews in return for safe passage out of Europe.

Burg said he would demand complete information on money belonging to the Jewish people and its rightful return.

ARAFAT

(Continued from Page 1) set up institutions to preserve the law: an army or security service.

"Is it right that people of Palestine, who believe in the holiness of Jerusalem, should be expelled from their homes to make room for people who come from Russia?" he said.

The gathering, a symposium of Jews, Christians, and Moslems, was organized by the Community of St. Egidio, an Italian lay Catholic organization devoted to promoting world peace.

Yesterday's opening session, at the Armenian Patriarchate in the Old City of Jerusalem, included the participation of Armenian Patriarch Torkom Manoogian; Rabbi Mordechai Piron, former chief chaplain of the IDF; Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace; and Prof. Andrea Riccardi, president of St. Egidio.

Piron described Jerusalem as the heart of the Jewish people, the focus of thinking and striving of Jews all over the world. It is the center of everything Jewish, he said.

Etchegaray noted that Jews, Christians, and Moslems are all sons of Abraham and have common roots in Jerusalem, but each understands its meaning in a different way.

For Jews, there is a historical and geographical link; for Christians, it is the place where their faith was born; and for Moslems, it is where Mohammed had his mystical experience.

For all three faiths, he added, it is the place where all will be called together in the end of days. "Jerusalem must again become the place of understanding between all the sons of Abraham," he said.

BIRAN

(Continued from Page 1) served in the city after the Baruch Goldstein massacre would return.

Meanwhile, US special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross, who is visiting in a private capacity, held talks with Arafat in Gaza, then met Foreign Minister Shimon Peres in Jerusalem.

Government may turn Postal Authority into company

JUDY SIEGEL

A DETAILED proposal to turn the Postal Authority into a government company with much more independence will be prepared by Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni and Finance Minister Avraham Shohat.

The proposal will be based on the report prepared by the Boaz Committee on telecommunications licensing and supervision, which was established six months ago at Aloni's initiative. The committee has so far issued an interim report in which it recommended changing the Postal

Authority's status.

The authority has, during the past few years, argued that under its current status, getting government approval for offering new services is extremely difficult and slow. As an independent government company, it would be much freer to introduce new, money-making services, such as those offered in Europe. Some of these rent out space in post office branches to manpower and travel agencies and other profit-making enterprises and provide full-service banking.



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Liba'i denies request to free convicted Brazilian murderer

JUSTICE Minister David Liba'i yesterday rejected a request by Brazil to free a Brazilian national jailed for a decade for the murder of an IDF soldier.

Brazil's visiting Foreign Minister Luiz Felipe Lamprea asked Liba'i to free Lania Hassain Marouf, convicted of helping her husband kidnap and murder a soldier in 1984.

Liba'i denied the request.

"With all due respect to the

importance we hold for the relations between us and the Brazilian government, the government of Israel cannot answer this request," Liba'i said in a statement.

"The fact this person holds a Brazilian passport is incidental," said Foreign Ministry spokesman Yigal Palmor. "She has been tried and convicted...and she has shown no remorse."

Marouf is in the 11th year of a life sentence handed down to her by a military court in 1984.

Lamprea also met with Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, as well as PLO chief Yasser Arafat in the Gaza Strip.

Israel and Brazil are also discussing cooperation agreements in the fields of science and technology.

No further information was immediately available on Marouf. (AP)

SOCIAL & PERSONAL

The weekly meeting of the English-speaking Jerusalem Rotary Club will take place today, 1 p.m., at the YMCA, King David Street. Michal Znoira-Cohn will speak on "Tolerance."

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China curbs UN women's free speech

THE Chinese yesterday clamped limits on free speech at an international grassroots women's forum, prompting a brisk challenge from the top official of the United Nations-sponsored meeting.

Expanding on earlier edicts barring unauthorized protests in Beijing, a senior security official said demonstrations against China and its leaders were also banned inside the venue of the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) forum in rural Huiyuan.

Public Security Vice Minister Tian Qiyu, security boss for the UN World Conference on Women and its affiliated NGO forum, said protests were allowed only in a middle school sports field in the NGO site, which is sealed off from the Chinese public.

Speech is not free even there, he said.

"Inside the site, NGOs are permitted to have demonstrations

and processions but these should not infringe on the sovereignty of the host country and should not slander or attack leaders of the host country," Tian said at a Beijing news conference.

The Chinese moved the meeting from central Beijing to the town near the Great Wall, a move activists and diplomats suspect was made to isolate them.

Even though China is allowing only a token site for protests, the concession is unprecedented. The government has effectively banned all public demonstrations since it crushed the pro-democracy movement in Beijing in 1989.

Rumors have been circulating among Chinese in Beijing that women participating in the NGO Forum, which opens today, plan to protest nude in the streets.

Tian Qiyu, vice-minister for public security, said marches and protests would be allowed at the

News agencies
BEIJING

Huairou No. 1 Middle School.

"Within the designated area, relevant organizations can have processions and demonstrations, but these activities should not infringe upon the sovereignty of the host country and should not attack or slander the state leaders of the host country, nor shall such activities be allowed in which violence is taking place against other persons," he said.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Chen Jian explained at a biweekly briefing that China is allowing but restricting demonstrations in line with UN regulations and practices at previous conferences.

Those rules apply to areas used by the conference and the NGO Forum designated as "UN pre-

views." Any activities which take place outside those areas fall under Chinese law, Chen said.

"Any organizations or individuals attending the World Conference on Women shouldn't use it as an opportunity to interfere in China's internal affairs," Chen said.

Those wanting to demonstrate elsewhere must submit requests to local police, Tian said. Such requests likely will be denied.

Organizers of the NGO Forum have said 36,000 people applied to attend. But Chinese officials said yesterday that they sent only 26,000 confirmation letters.

Huang Qizao, vice-president of the Chinese Organizing Committee and director of the NGO Forum Committee, declined to explain why so many couldn't come. He said "with proper procedures and with proper formalities, all can come to attend the forum."

A Foreign Ministry official said the government expects up to 9,000 official and private representatives attend the official UN-sponsored conference, which starts Sept. 4.

China banned some Taiwanese and Tibetan applicants to the NGO Forum, arguing that Taiwan and Tibet are part of China and are represented by Chinese participants.

Huang was asked why Liu Shih-fang, a member of Taiwan's Democratic Progressive party, was denied a visa even though she was part of a delegation from Liberal International, the world union of liberal parties which is accredited to the United Nations.

Huang implied that Liu should have sought accreditation as a Chinese, not a foreigner. China claims sovereignty over Taiwan. Liu's party favors Taiwan's independence.

French block Greenpeace chopper

News agencies

PAPEETE, Tahiti
A French military helicopter blocked a Greenpeace chopper from approaching a 20-km exclusion zone around Mururoa Atoll, where France plans to resume underground nuclear testing, possibly within days.

The protest helicopter took off from the vessel MV Greenpeace, the environmental group's command ship, which has just arrived in the area.

It was intercepted by a French helicopter from one of two navy frigates shadowing a flotilla of anti-nuclear ships and yachts in waters off the island, about 1,000 km east of Tahiti.

A Radio New Zealand reporter said yesterday that the two helicopters faced off in midair at the edge of the exclusion zone. They flew around each other for several minutes before retreating to their respective ships.

France said resumed nuclear testing was "very close." New Zealand and Cook Islands politicians handed an angry note to the French navy from a protest boat off the test site.

As tension mounted at Mururoa Atoll, Greenpeace finalized plans for its protest flotilla in its bid to prevent the resumption of testing after vowing to breach a 20-km military exclusion zone.

"There is no doubt that we are very close now to the beginning of the campaign," the commander of French test sites in the South Pacific, General Paul Verice, said from the atoll, about 1,200 km south of here.

"We are now doing prepara-

tions to make our experiments from September 1," Verice said by telephone.

French atomic energy officials said one of the nuclear explosions would be weapon strength - almost 150 kilotons.

Verice was speaking as politicians from New Zealand and the Cook Islands delivered a protest note off the atoll saying the planned tests were "monstrous".

Cook Islands parliamentarian Tupou Faieka handed over the letter condemning the tests to a French naval lieutenant on board the New Zealand navy research vessel Tui.

"The main message of the letter is our total and collective protest against this monstrous act of test bombing in this paradise of the Pacific and the world," Faieka said from the ship.

New Zealand and the tiny Cook Islands, which has sent a large ceremonial canoe, are the only nations to send ships to Mururoa in official government protests against the tests.

President Jacques Chirac would resume testing with a final series of seven or eight nuclear devices at Mururoa or Fangatafa atolls in French Polynesia between September and May.

While the Tui delivered its protest, Greenpeace finalized its plans off the test site after the arrival of the 52-meter Greenpeace, the biggest ship in its fleet.

The French navy kept a watchful eye on the organization, according to a correspondent on board the Greenpeace.

UN confirms Serbs fired lethal Sarajevo shell

SARAJEVO (AP) - The United Nations blamed rebel Serbs yesterday for firing a mortar shell that killed 36 people, and weighed whether to punish them with NATO airstrikes.

The peace process was threatened either way. Hours earlier the rebel Serbs signaled for the first time that they were ready to discuss peace. But the Bosnian government said it would boycott new negotiations if the Serbs were left unpunished.

Monday's shelling of a marketplace was the deadliest single attack on Sarajevo's civilians in the 40-month-old Bosnian war since Feb. 5, 1994, when another mortar attack there killed 68 people.

The Health Ministry said 36 people were killed by the lone shell, and 88 others were wounded. Three others were also killed by shells landing elsewhere in Sarajevo, bringing the total toll for the day to 39 dead and 89 wounded, said the ministry.

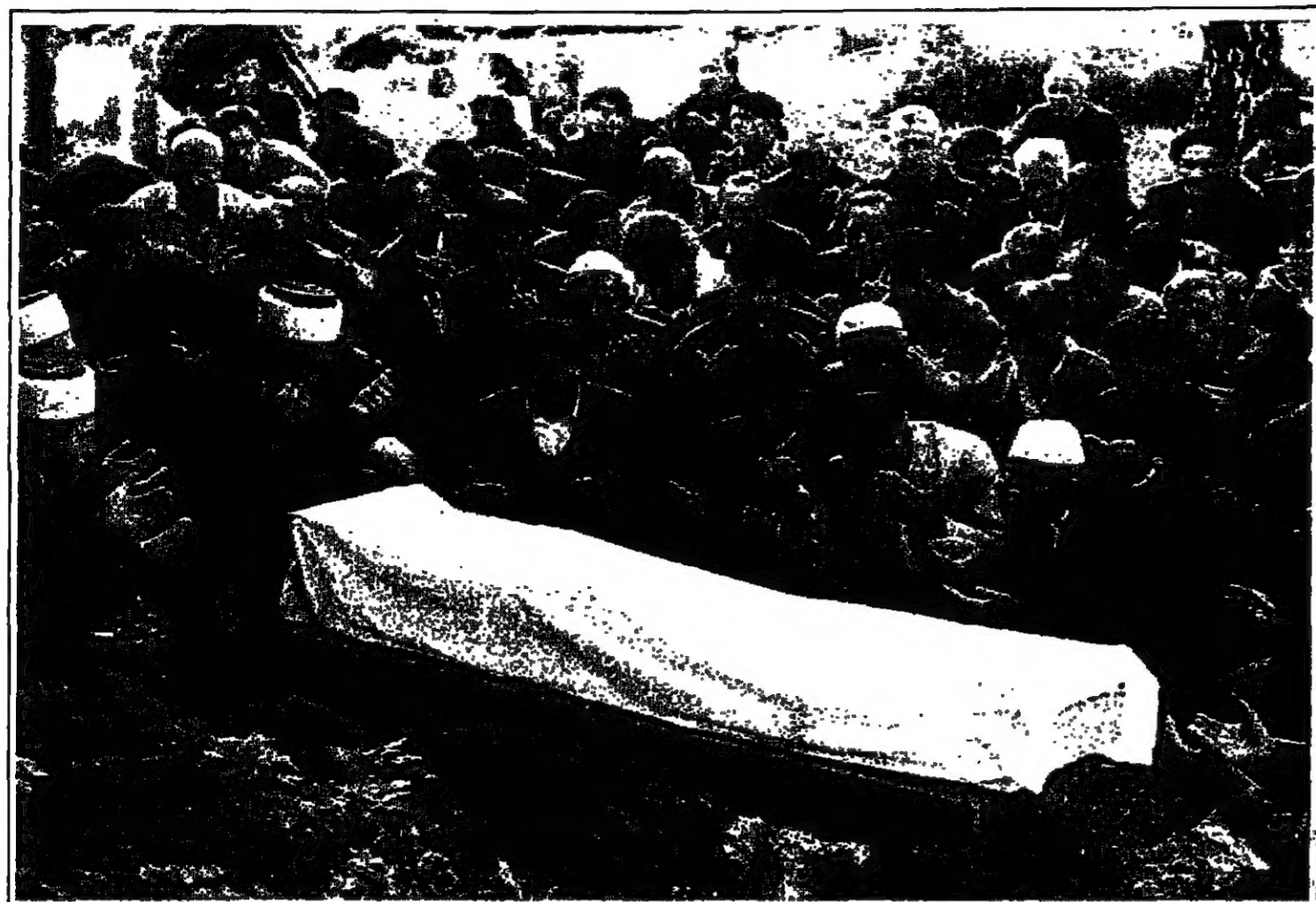
UN spokesman Alexander Ivanko said that after examining a UN report on the shelling, Lt. Gen. Rupert Smith, commander of UN forces in Bosnia, "concluded, beyond any reasonable doubt, that the attack came from Bosnian Serb positions."

The UN, in tandem with NATO, recently pledged to protect Sarajevo and other remaining UN "safe areas" with massive NATO airstrikes if necessary.

"All options are now being reviewed, including the use of air power" in response, said Ivanko, adding "strong action" was likely.

Bosnian Foreign Minister Muhamed Sacirbey threatened yesterday to suspend his government's participation in any new peace talks "as long as this kind of terrorist attack goes unpunished."

A US delegation led by Assistant Secretary Richard Holbrooke was to meet yesterday for a second day with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic in Paris. They were to be joined by



Friends and family of Hasim Kurtovic, who died on Monday outside the Sarajevo indoor market, pray during the funeral ceremony at the old town cemetery yesterday.

members of the five-nation contact group, including the United States and Russia.

Holbrooke, who was to travel next to the Serbian capital Belgrade for more talks, said the shelling will "only make us redouble our efforts" to negotiate peace.

The finding that the shell was fired by Serbs put the United Nations in a tough position. Failing to call for NATO airstrikes could be seen as breaking a promise. Calling for airstrikes would almost certainly destroy fragile efforts to bring the war-

ring sides to the negotiating table.

The rebel Serbs issued a statement saying they welcomed a US plan on ending the war. One of their leaders, Momcilo Krajisnik, said: "Now we are optimistic that peace could be reached."

Even if the United Nations rules against NATO airstrikes, it was unclear whether peace chances were improved. The rebels have been ready to talk peace before, only to introduce conditions unacceptable to the Moslem-led Bosnian govern-

ment or the international community.

The Serbs' conciliatory stance could be motivated by their need for a respite on the battlefield. They recently saw their Serb allies in neighboring Croatia defeated and suffered their own losses from joint Croatian and Bosnian government army attacks.

The Serbs denied launching Monday's attack, alleging the government army targeted its own people to increase anti-Serb sentiment. They also denied launching the February

1994 shelling.

But Ivanko said the evidence against the Serbs was "basically overwhelming." Another UN spokesman, Lt. Col. Chris Vernon, said radar, crater analysis and acoustic tracing showed the Serbs were to blame.

Ivanko was skeptical of the Serbs' positive response to the UN peace plan.

"Even if one can call it a welcome sign, one should look at what they did yesterday to the people of Sarajevo," he said. "I think their actions speak much better than their words."

Footage of 'alien' screened in US

LONDON (Reuters) - Television viewers yesterday saw their first sighting of a controversial humanoid corpse, billed as an alien whose spacecraft crashed into the US desert in 1947.

The so-called Roswell incident is among the most celebrated of UFO - unidentified flying object - mysteries and it was the first time its "star", albeit long dead, had appeared on screen in Britain.

With reptilian eyes and a bulbous head, the creature looked exactly like people from earth expect people from outer space to look like. What is different is how seriously she - or it - has been taken outside UFO circles.

British film-maker Ray Santilli says he bought the film from a former military cameraman who is alleged to have filmed an autopsy of the alien after her spacecraft crashed near Roswell, New Mexico.

"We didn't hoax it - 100 percent sure," he said. UFO enthusiasts pounced on the grainy black-and-white footage as long-awaited proof of life beyond earth, accusing the US authorities of mounting a massive cover-up.

Doubters applauded a sophisticated set of special effects but saw no woman from outer space on the operating table.

"What a load of rubbish!" was the verdict of the Daily Telegraph. "People want to believe in flying saucers but... if you open your mind too much,

your brain may fall out."

The footage, shown by Channel Four, depicts a creature with 12 fingers and toes and an out-sized, hairless head. Surgeons in huge radiation suits cut through its chest, which appears to ooze blood, and saw at the scalp to expose a gelatinous brain.

Serious newspapers have refused to rule out a summer hoax. Some scientists, too, shied away from outright dismissal.

"There was certainly none of the excitement I as a physicist would expect from doctors having a unique opportunity to autopsy an alien being," according to Stanton Friedman, a US nuclear physicist who has spent decades investigating the incident.

Yet he added: "I am absolutely convinced a saucer did crash outside Roswell. We're dealing with the biggest story of the millennium: visits to planet earth by aliens, and the successful cover-up of the best data, the bodies and the wreckage."

UFO investigators have long claimed a cover-up. The show did not dismiss that theory, interviewing a string of "ordinary" Americans who offered up different pieces of the Roswell puzzle.

It offered no conclusive proof of whether anything - plane, balloon or saucer - crashed or whether the being was man-made, extra-terrestrial or the freakish result of top-secret tests.

Either way, the mystery endures. As Santilli shrewdly said: "There isn't a single shred of evidence that it's a fake."

India renews contact with Kashmir terrorists

SRINAGAR (Reuters) - Indian authorities held a fresh round of talks yesterday with militants holding four Westerners hostage in Kashmir amid hopes the terrorists, in their ninth week of captivity, would be released unharmed.

Officials spoke by radio with Al-Farhan militants who kidnapped the Westerners in isolated Kashmir in early July.

The latest communication came one day after American Donald Hutchings spoke directly to Indian officials, telling them by radio that he was in good health, as were German Dirk Hasert and Britons Keith Mangan and Paul Wells.

That was the first direct contact between the government and the hostages since the men were abducted and fanned hopes Al-Farhan would eventually agree to free the tourists.

"This is another positive development," a senior official of the government of Jammu and Kashmir state said. "We are happy that despite all the headlines and threats against them, we were able to talk to a hostage and prolong the negotiations."

The government contacted the abductors again yesterday, a state government spokesman said. "We are talking," he said. "We hope that things move quickly, but it is a long, drawn-

out process and one has to show patience."

A fifth hostage, Norwegian Hans Christian Ostroe, was found beheaded in a remote region of Kashmir on August 13.

Near his body was a note in which Al-Farhan threatened to kill the others unless the government released 15 jailed separatists within two days.

That deadline, like two earlier ones, passed without any apparent harm being done to the hostages as Indian negotiators stepped up efforts to reach a peaceful end to the ordeal, which entered its ninth week yesterday.

The government had requested proof that the four men were unharmed in spite of death threats. A tape recording and photographs released last week indicated the men were in good health, but they dated from August 18, two days before yet another death threat.

In the radio conversation, Hutchings told authorities he and the other hostages were in good health.

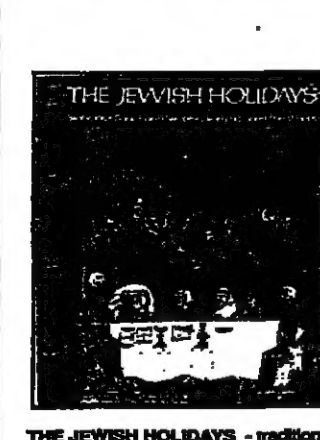
Officials seeking proof the others were alive and well asked Hutchings personal questions about them which only they could answer.

Officials would not say if they expected the responses in writing, on a tape recording or over radio.

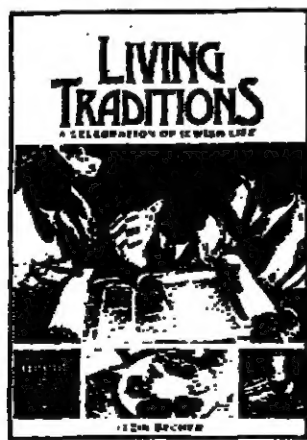
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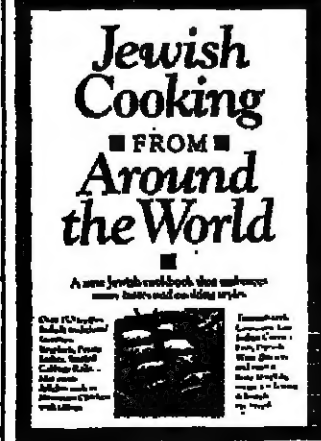
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Iraq said holding Kuwaiti POWs underground

EIGHT ships carrying US weapons arrived in the Gulf and more are heading to the waterway as part of an American military buildup in the region following fresh tension over Iraq, a US Navy official said.

US tanks and armored vehicles on maneuvers in Kuwait will hold their first live-fire exercise in the desert this week following several days of routine maintenance and alignment of weapon sights, US army officers said.

"We currently have eight of the ships in the Gulf," said Commander T. McCreary, spokesman of the Fifth Fleet, adding they were all in international waters. "Some more are coming. We have moved the equipment as a prudent step with regard to the tension in the region."

The US has also brought forward joint exercises with Kuwait as a precaution after observing what it called unusual Iraqi military activity in Baghdad and southern Iraq.

US military activity in the region has also increased since Jordan gave asylum to two senior Iraqi defectors, one of whom called for the overthrow of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

The ships carry tanks, artillery, food, fuel, water, vehicles and other equipment to sustain 16,500 Marines in combat for 30 days, a US military spokesman said.

In addition, they carry enough gear to sustain 5,000 to 7,000 US Army troops, said McCreary.

The ships came from the US base of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. The personnel who would use the equipment in the event of any emergency are still in the US, he said.

"We want peace. We don't want anybody to threaten anybody else," said US Third Army Major-General James Taylor, who is commander of US troops in the land exercise.

Asked to comment on perceptions of an Iraqi threat, he told reporters at a tank and armored vehicle encampment 40 km. south of the Iraqi border that Gulf Arabs just wanted to go about their business in peace.

"Anybody who disrupts that, I don't like," he said.

"You never know when someone might go a little bit insane and push a button," said Private First Class Riad Mora.

"But you've got thousands of soldiers around. You've got planes flying around. You've got ships around. If something was to happen I don't think Iraq would stand much of a chance."

"We are all combat ready. We are all ready to go."

Meanwhile, the *Arab Times* reported this week that Kuwaiti prisoners taken during Iraq's invasion of the emirate are being held in an underground prison 25 km. outside Baghdad.

The English-language newspaper, quoting well-informed Jordanian sources, said they are held in the al-Radwaniyah prison.

That was where 30,000 Iraqi dissidents were held, many of them tortured, after the ill-fated Shi'ite Moslem uprising in southern Iraq in March 1991.

Iraqi dissidents and human-rights groups have reported mass killings in al-Radwaniyah, a former army installation that was also used as a prison camp for Iranian POWs during Iraq's 1980-88 war with Iran.

The newspaper said 145 Kuwaiti prisoners once held in the southern capital of Basra are believed to have been "lost without a trace" since that revolt.

The *Arab Times* reported that senior Iraqi officials who defected to Jordan earlier this month said that, at the time of the uprising, 175 Kuwaitis were being held in Basra's central prison, with 400 transferred earlier to Baghdad.

Out of the 175, 145 managed to escape during the chaos that gripped the south during the uprising, which was brutally crushed by Saddam's forces, and their fate is not known, the defectors say.

Saddam is planning to announce "an initiative" on the Kuwaiti POWs, the newspaper said.

There is no way to verify the *Arab Times* report. But following the August 8 defections, Saddam has handed over long-concealed data on his clandestine weapons systems to the UN and there has been speculation he may become more compliant on other UN resolutions, which include the return of some 600 missing Kuwaitis.

Officials here say that Kuwaiti and Iraqi officials are scheduled to meet this week on the border to discuss the fate of the missing Kuwaitis under the auspices of the International Committee of the Red Cross. (News agencies)

Arabs reluctant to join Iraq bandwagon

EGYPT'S president says the idea that Iraq poses a threat to other Arabs is nonsense. Syria complains about "exploitation" of Baghdad's weakness. Even arch-enemy Kuwait seems wary to inflame a dispute with Iraq.

In vivid contrast to the months following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait in 1990, most Arab countries are reluctant to join the bandwagon seeking Saddam Hussein's fall - each for its own reason.

That means that despite US reports of Iraqi troop movements - backed by statements from Saddam's defector son-in-law and former confidant - the US may have to squeeze Iraq alone.

The most striking evidence yet of Arab dissension with Washington was Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's statement last week that Egypt would not support attempts by foreign countries to overthrow Saddam.

"The fall of the Iraqi regime or

its staying in power is a matter which should be left to the Iraqi people," said Mubarak, who was quoted by Egypt's Middle East News Agency.

Mubarak is Washington's main Arab ally and was a key figure in the US-led coalition in the 1991 Gulf War.

The role of Egypt and Syria in the alliance lent it at least some legitimacy among Arabs habitually wary of US intentions.

That same wariness is now shared by other Arab leaders, many of whom have said the dispute with Iraq is being exaggerated.

Unlike 1990, when Iraq was seen as a direct threat to Saudi Arabia, Baghdad now appears more helpless than menacing.

Egypt has sought for months to bring Iraq back into the Arab fold, possibly as a counterweight to the growing influence Saudi Arabia and other Gulf states wield through their wealth.

Mubarak pointedly dismisses

NEWS ANALYSIS

ANTHONY SHADID

any threat posed by Iraq.

"These reports are pure nonsense and Iraq is not in a position to carry out any military operation, especially after the experience of the Gulf War," he says.

Syria, another Gulf War ally, has said little since the August 8 defection of Gen. Hussein Kamel Hassan, Saddam's former arms production chief. But this week, Foreign Minister Farouk al-Sharaa suggested the dispute was serving US interests.

"There have been a lot of exaggerations and exploitation for political reasons," al-Sharaa said during a visit to Denmark.

Some Arabs' fears of US dabbling in the region have no doubt been heightened by the 3,500 US troops sent to Jordan and Kuwait, ostensibly for military exercises but also as a warning to

Baghdad.

The reaction of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait to the latest fuss over Iraq is more nuanced.

Although the two have sworn never to reconcile with Iraq as long as Saddam is in power, they both realize a new regime will likely mean an end to the UN oil embargo imposed on Baghdad after the Gulf War.

This would allow Iraq to flood the market with oil, a disaster for Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, which are struggling with tight finances after failing to keep oil prices high.

Signaling Kuwait's apparent intention not to inflame the dispute, its defense minister, Sheikh Ahmad Hamoud al-Sabah, was quoted as saying Kuwait detected no unusual movements of troops near its border - differing with US reports.

The biggest contrast to the general Arab response is Jordan's King Hussein, who saw his relations plummet with the US after

he gave his tacit support to Iraq during the Gulf War.

Now, he's coming across as one of Iraq's main foes, saying Iraq deceived him. He said he decided to support Hassan, who defected to Jordan along with his brother and their wives, both Saddam's daughters.

But importantly, the king balked at closing his border, Iraq's main gateway to the world, or cutting off trade and oil purchases from Iraq, which are vital to both countries.

An editorial in the prominent London-based Arabic newspaper *al-Hayat* also took a different stance. It said the Arabs shouldn't follow Washington, but that did not mean Saddam should not go.

"Why shouldn't removing Saddam Hussein from power be an Arab project instead of an American project, for American objectives and in the context of American strategy?" the newspaper asked. (AP)

Medieval Cairo street gets face-lift

A millennium ago, al-Muizz Li Din Allah Street ran through the heart of medieval Cairo, its minarets and palaces welcoming travelers to a pearl of the Islamic world.

The modern version is little more than an alley snarled with traffic and shabby workshops, endangering the world's highest concentration of historic monuments.

But the government has unveiled a newly renovated architectural gem as part of a plan to restore the thoroughfare to the glory days of Cairo's Islamic past.

"There is no street in the world with this many monuments, but it is suffering from the surrounding environment, the misuse of the antiquities, even lack of cleanliness," said Abdel-Halim Nour-Eddin, head of Egypt's Supreme Council for Antiquities.

The neighborhood, now known as Islamic Cairo, has long been neglected, overshadowed by the monuments of the pharaohs which grab the attention of archaeologists and Western donors.

"It is a street, but we can turn it into a museum," Nour-Eddin said.

The building is the 750-year-old Al-Salhiyah school, where workers refurbished the beautifully designed stone facade and minaret in a project sponsored by the German Archeological Center.

Nearby is the 250-year-old Abdel-Rahman Katkhuda fountain, with vivid blue tiles depicting intertwined flowers, also restored by the German government.

Other plans include removing shops built against walls of the monuments and redesigning other storefronts to blend with the street's medieval atmosphere. A ban on traffic is being considered.

Al-Muizz Li Din Allah Street was named after the Arab Moslem leader who invaded Egypt in 969 and founded al-Qahira, or "the victor," from which came the Western name Cairo. The street was the main highway of Cairo under the Fatimid dynasty, which ruled Egypt from the time of al-Muizz until 1171.

Today, it extends about three kilometers and is barely wide enough for two cars - or donkey carts - to pass at the same time. (AP)



Two Iraqi journalists in traditional clothing register for the UN Conference on Women in Beijing on Monday. (AP)

Algerian opposition to boycott poll

ALGERIA'S main opposition groups this week formally said they oppose a presidential poll set for November.

The "Rome group" of eight parties also warned in a statement that the polls would prolong the North African country's political crisis and lead to more bloodshed instead of stopping it, as the army-backed authorities hope.

The coalition includes the former ruling party the National Liberation Front (FLN), the banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) and the Socialist Forces Front (FFS), three of the largest political movements in Algeria.

The boycott means the authorities have failed to gather a wide consensus for the polls, which they insist will go ahead in November to try to reestablish normal political life.

Some 40,000 people have died since 1992, when the authorities canceled general elections and Moslem militants who had been poised to win them started fighting to overthrow the government and set up a Islamic state.

"[We] oppose the presidential elections organized by the authorities and which do not constitute other than a new formula to reinforce the current regime and prolong the crisis," the National Pact Group said in a joint statement.

The authorities have set November 16 as the first leg of the presidential poll after saying a dialogue with the FIS, the main

Moslem militant political movement, had failed because of what it described as the "intransigence" of the fundamentalists.

So far, 10 Algerian politicians have announced that they plan to run for president, but the current head of state, Liamine Zeroual, has not yet made it known if he will also run.

The most serious candidate so far is former prime minister Redha Malek, leader of an anti-fundamentalist movement.

The "Rome group," so-called because it first met in the Italian capital in January, appealed to its followers not to support any of the would-be candidates.

"[We] do not sponsor elections in the present situation as they might be a new factor to increase the danger and push the country to more bloodshed," it said.

"The return to the electoral process needs a national consensus and the reinforcement of democracy after guaranteeing the security, political, information and administrative conditions to permit free and democratic elections," it added.

The group said it also opposes the presence of international observers, which the Algerian government has requested from the United Nations, the Arab League and the Organization of African Unity to monitor the poll.

"Accepting the invitation is a collusion with the [Algerian] regime," the statement said. (Reuters)

Iraqi women to demand control of Mideast arms

IRAQI delegates to the UN women's conference in Beijing will demand that all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, including those in Israel, come under UN inspection, the *Baghdad Observer* said.

The English-language daily quoted Afkhar Ahmed Ayoub, deputy chairwoman of the General Federation of Iraqi Women, as saying Iraq wants the conference, opening today, to discuss "wars, occupation, military con-

flicts and embargoes as well as crime."

"Iraq will propose that all weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East region, including those of Israel, be subject to UN inspection," she said.

Iraq is under UN trade sanctions imposed for its invasion of Kuwait.

They cannot be eased or lifted unless Iraq gets rid of its weapons of mass destruction. (Reuters)

Sudan's Mahdi calls for national conference

SUDAN'S former premier Sadeq Mahdi, released from prison this week, has called for a national conference of all groups to solve Sudan's political and economic problems.

He also said he supported dialogue with the government of Lt. Gen. Omar Hassan Bashir.

In an interview with the independent Sudanese daily *Akbar al-Youn*, Mahdi called for the conference to seek solutions to Sudan's numerous problems.

Mahdi, the leader of Sudan's Umma party, was deposed in a military coup in 1989 led by Bashir and has been detained several times since. He was last detained on May 16 and released with 32 other political prisoners.

Upon taking power, Bashir banned all political parties and

trade unions and launched what he called Sudan's Islamic experiment, backed by the leader of the National Islamic Front, Hassan Turabi.

Oxford-educated Mahdi, 59, also leads the religious Ansar sect, founded by his grandfather to fight against British occupation in the 19th century.

The US Embassy in Khartoum issued a statement welcoming the release of political prisoners and described the move as encouraging.

"Taken with President Bashir's announcement of national elections next year, it is an advance toward assuring respect for human rights and a government that will be more responsive to the wishes of the people of Sudan," the statement said.

Bashir announced in a televised speech last week that presidential and parliamentary elections are due to take place in Sudan next year.

But he did not say whether he would run.

Mahdi told the London-based daily *al-Hayat* that, following a meeting of all Sudanese opposition parties in Eritrea in July, he was accused of taking part in a plot to overthrow the government, a charge he denied.

Meanwhile, Egypt's interior minister has accused Sudanese religious leader Turabi of helping Egypt's two chief Moslem radical groups to overcome differences and unite against the Egyptian government.

Hassan el-Alfi said militants apprehended by police have given

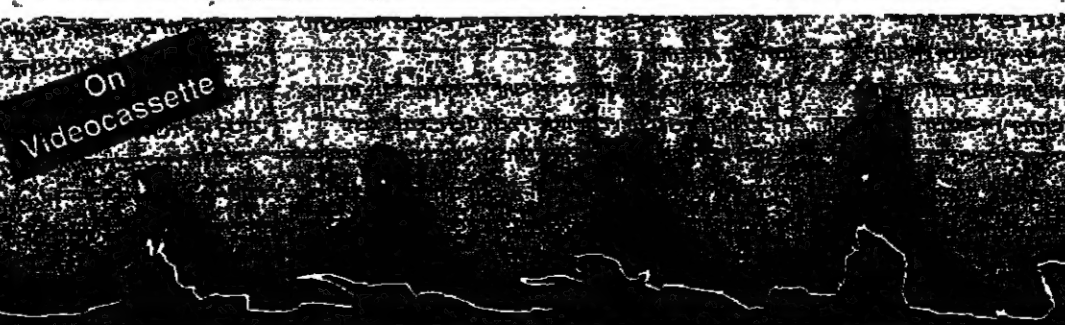
an accounts of the role played by Turabi, the power behind Sudan's Islamic government, in coordinating between the two groups.

El-Alfi's remarks were made in an interview with *al-Hayat*. They are the latest Egyptian claims that Sudan is supporting Islamic militants trying to overthrow Egypt's government.

The allegations heightened after a June 26 assassination attempt on President Hosni Mubarak in Ethiopia, when Egypt said the would-be assassins were guided by Turabi. Sudan denied it.

The movements involved in the interior minister's accusation are al-Gamaa al-Islamiya (the Islamic Group) and al-Jihad. (Reuters)

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EDITORIAL OFFICES AND ADMINISTRATION The Jerusalem Post Building, P.O. Box 81, Ramat Gan, Jerusalem (91000)
Telephone 315666, Telex 26121, Fax 389527, CIRCULATION - 315610, Fax 389017, ADVERTISING - 315640, 315637-40, Fax 388408, TEL. AVIV: 5 Rehov Hamagaz, P.O. Box 28398 (61283) 315610, Fax 6390333, Fax 6390277, HAIFA: 29 Nardin, Hader
Hacarmel, Telephone 623166, Published daily, except Saturdays, in Jerusalem, Israel by The Jerusalem Post Ltd. Printed by The Jerusalem Post Press in Jerusalem. Registered at the G.P.O. © The Jerusalem Post 1995. Reproduction, or storage in a retrieval system, or any other form, is prohibited without permission. Editors: 1932-1955 GERSHON AGRON, 1955-1974 TED LURIE, 1974-1975 LEA BEN DOR, 1975-1989 ARI RATH and ERWIN FRENKEL, 1990-1992 N. DAVID GROSS

Feeble protests

LIKUD MK Dov Shilansky, one of the hunger strikers protesting against the Oslo agreement opposite the Prime Minister's Office for the past week, said yesterday he was encouraged by the public's response. Thousands have visited the protest tent, he declared, buoying the strikers led by MK Ariel Sharon with expressions of sympathy and support.

But such pronouncements seem to reflect wishful thinking more than reality. The fact is that the opposition to the government, which according to opinion polls encompasses a majority of the country's Jewish population, has been unable to galvanize the public and act effectively.

The reasons for this failure are probably many. Demonstrations, whether costly, organized, and massive or sporadic and small, seem to have limited impact. Depending almost wholly on the kind of coverage the media give them, they are as good as wasted if the media are hostile. It seems, too, that the public's readiness to participate in demonstrations has diminished, perhaps because, as Sharon seems to believe, television has made it more passive, and because it is beginning to doubt the efficacy of protest.

But the basic problem of those who wish to change government policy is that most Israelis, regardless of how they respond to pollsters, do not feel that "the process" truly poses a personal threat to their safety. This is why the participants in demonstrations are overwhelmingly residents of the territories, whose lives are

directly affected by the government's moves. Only in the hours and days immediately following terrorist strikes do Green Line Israelis seem to feel that the danger is close enough to warrant doing more than jeer in their living rooms when government spokesmen appear on television.

It is most likely that for the foreseeable future each element in the political constellation will play out its role in what has become a familiar pattern. The government will continue making concessions to reach an agreement while postponing implementation of its more painful provisions until after next year's election.

The Palestinian Authority will go through the motions of arresting Hamas leaders, careful not to affect the organization's ability to act as long as it adheres to the agreement not to launch strikes from the self-rule areas. The Islamic terrorists will score few successes as long as the army controls the territories, but broaden their base of operations in the cities evacuated by the IDF. And the US will insist on ceremonies which will afford President Bill Clinton opportunities to appear as a Middle East peacemaker.

None of this seems particularly threatening. But the government's path leads inexorably to Israeli withdrawal from virtually all the territories and the establishment of a Palestinian state on the 1949 armistice lines. And unless the opposition manages to convince Israelis that such a development will endanger Israel and that there is a credible alternative, it will have only itself to blame if all the current protests, demonstrations, and hunger strikes are remembered only as symptoms of political impotence.

Georgia's close call

ALL who remember the enthusiasm and warmth of Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze during his visit here earlier this year will heave a great sigh of relief at his miraculous escape from the terrorist bombing of his motorcade yesterday. Even before the end of the Cold War, Shevardnadze was one of the first Communists to impress the world with a refreshingly honest and open style as foreign minister of the Soviet Union.

There is little doubt he could have remained in the Kremlin as a substantial political force in the new Russia, but instead he chose to heed the call from his native Georgia and resigned from the Foreign Ministry in 1992. It was a brave move to a thankless task - "probably suicide" as he himself put it. Yet, without a man of his stature at the helm, Georgia today would probably be in a worse mess than Bosnia.

The three years since his return have been marked by violence and separatist rebellions, which he has handled with impressive skill and moderation, firmly inching his troublesome countrymen to some semblance of democracy and order. True, Georgia is still a state in shambles with hyper-inflation, a useless currency, and an epidemic of crime. But without Shevardnadze it would be little better than a modern version of the Wild West. From 1991 to 1993, thousands died in uprisings in Abkhazia

and South Ossetia provinces and in the violent overthrow of Georgia's gangster-style leader Zviad Gamsakhurdia, who continued his violent attempt to regain power from the west of the country.

At the end of it all, Georgia remained a unitary state as Shevardnadze continued with an uncompromising war on crime and banditry. His slow but sure success was undoubtedly the spur to yesterday's terrorist attack, perpetrated while he was on his way to a ceremonial signing of Georgia's new constitution. The constitution provides for a presidency with greater powers than Shevardnadze now exercises as head of state and chairman of parliament, and he is expected to be the only credible candidate for the post when elections are held in November. Shevardnadze has still managed time to exercise his old skills in foreign affairs and he has been the most enthusiastic of former communist leaders in forging a new relationship with Israel and with Georgian Jews who have immigrated here. In 1993 he was one of the first foreign leaders of stature to press Iran for information on the missing Ron Arad.

It can only be hoped the attempt on his life will shock Georgians into realizing that without him Georgia might yet cease to exist. It is up to them to ensure that his reforming efforts continue and that terrorism is not handed a victory.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HURTING THEIR CAUSE

Sir, - Even though I was one of the fortunate people who arrived from work well before the demonstrators brought traffic on the nation's road to a standstill, I felt nothing but anger as I watched the endless lines of vehicles, sometimes moving at a snail's pace, but mostly not moving at all.

Had I been stranded in my car after a long day at the office, I cannot imagine that I would have been praising these people for turning a half-hour drive into a two-hour drive in the name of "Israeli security." Samuel Sackett ("Protesters snarl traffic all over the country," August 9) is living in a dream world if he believes that people will be understanding of what his group has done, or even more absurd, they will be supportive. A neighbor spoke of being stuck in traffic in different locations between Ashdod and Re'ut, thanks to those who have taken it upon themselves to make our roads more secure. Needless to say, she wasn't feeling terribly supportive once she finally arrived home.

Antics such as those that have taken place in recent days - especially the blocking of roads during peak hours - have begun to create resentment against certain segments of the population. Whether or not their goals are worthwhile is not for me alone to judge. However noble these goals may or may not be, alienating the majority of the population (or at the very least, those serving in the Israel Defense Forces or those who travel on our nation's roads) through foolish acts of defiance is not the solution.

LIZA FARACHDEL
Re'ut.

IMMIGRANT LOANS

Sir, - I refer to your article of August 1, "Unnecessary loan repayments hurt thousands of poor immigrants," in which the spokeswoman of the Zionist Forum is quoted as saying that three years ago, the immigrants who received money from the Jewish Agency in an absorption basket grant were sure they were receiving a grant and only a year later discovered suddenly that the grant had turned into a loan and that they had to repay it. Tanya Weintraub is wrong.

All those involved were aware of the decision to change the "conditional grant" to a loan, adopted in the course of 1991, as it was widely publicized and debated and was only implemented at the end of that year. All the immigrants without exception knew very well that what was involved was a loan and they also

knew the rules and conditions of repayment. The immigrants who had received the loans from commercial banks were required to bring guarantors for these loans. They had to sign the forms in Russian and Hebrew and received detailed explanations concerning the conditions of repayment, as is usual when receiving loans.

We deeply regret the difficulties of those immigrants who continue to pay for loans which had been canceled because of the banks' red tape, for which we are not responsible. As we have already stated, as soon as the banks have completed their accounts in this matter, we will credit the immigrants retroactively, as of February of this year.

ELDAD ADAR, Spokesman,
The Jewish Agency for Israel
Jerusalem.

PATRIOTISM

Sir, - In response to Teddy Kollek's column of August 11, "Patriotism is not a subject for ridicule," I would like to state that I agree with his argument that today's "fashion" of rewriting Zionist history is reprehensible. Indeed, if Ben-Gurion had not made the decisions he made - despite world opinion and Arab threats - Israel would probably not exist as it does today. However, equating Yitzhak Rabin with Ben-Gurion is also reprehensible. Rabin today is making those very decisions which Ben-Gurion rejected. He is caving in to international and terrorist pressures, instead of standing by his principles as Ben-Gurion did.

As for rewriting Jewish history, it is not the people demonstrating who are doing that, it is the government,

with statements such as "Hebron has never been culturally important to the Jews." It is not the people who do not respect the government - it is the government which does not respect its citizens. Because those people who settled empty lands in the Golan and in Judea and Samaria are not willing to have their lives and homes dismantled like so many pieces of Lego, they are labeled "obstacles" and "enemies" of peace, instead of pioneers, Zionists and patriots, as all preceding governments have called them. By doing what it is doing, if I may quote Mr. Kollek, the government "weakens their country and the very core of our existence."

REESA STONE
Beersheba.



Security first, surely

AVRAHAM TAMIR

AS the government struggles to implement interim agreements and spends a fortune on bypass roads which will be handed over to sovereign Palestinian rule in a few years, the de-facto Palestinian government is in effect crystallizing a permanent settlement leading to the establishment of a Palestinian state in all the territories, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip.

We are told that the confrontation over the final political accommodation for East Jerusalem, permanent frontiers and settlements in the territories is to be deferred until negotiations on the permanent settlement.

But what can we do? The showdown has already begun.

Our leaders enlighten us to the effect that even a tiny Knesset majority is enough to ratify peace plans; but they forget that it is a significant Jewish majority that is needed in the Knesset and the nation - for what we are talking about is the future of Israel as a Jewish state.

A majority of Israelis might agree to live in peace and security with a Palestinian state in most of the territory of Judea, Samaria and Gaza; but, meanwhile, public confidence in the way peace is being made is eroding, because it is a way that does not bring us security.

When the leaders of the Labor

bloc first raised the banner of the Jordanian option, the Kingdom of Jordan was touted as a party to the permanent-status negotiations, which would be executed in stages (as was done with Egypt);

The showdown with the Palestinians has already begun, but public confidence is eroding

and would guarantee the end of terrorism and violence from the territories, right from the start of negotiations.

WHAT HAS changed since then?

The PLO leadership has replaced Jordan - a fact that doesn't explain why what was right regarding Jordan should not be followed with the leadership of the Palestinian people.

It doesn't explain why it can't be made clear to Arafat that, after he establishes a state in the Gaza Strip and Jericho, additional territories will be transferred to him only after an agreement has been made on the permanent

borders, the status of East Jerusalem, and the future of Jewish settlement in the territories.

It doesn't explain why we can't condition the permanent-status negotiations - or at any rate the transfer of more land to PLO control - on the total cessation of Palestinian terrorism from the territories, in all forms and in any direction.

If Arafat is incapable of ruling his people (as the architects of Oslo promised he would do), the Palestinian people must have another, more capable leadership.

Surely it would be preferable to consolidate a majority of the nation around permanent arrangements linked to conceding most of the territory of Judea, Samaria and Gaza and the Golan Heights (to the Mandatory frontier). The condition would be that the talks and implementation of the agreements occur against a background of security and good-neighborly relations.

Wouldn't that be better than moving ahead in an atmosphere of insecurity, with a peace ringed round by electrified fences, with backroom dialogue conducted via the US on issues that determine Israel's destiny - the sort of thing that is going on with Syria?

The writer, a retired IDF general, is a former director-general of the Foreign Ministry, and of the Prime Minister's Office.

Exports - the acid test

STEF WERTHEIMER

are any guide, perhaps when peace arrives, we will not notice it. We will still be immersed in our favorite subjects: our history, recent and more distant, our fears for our security, and the wars we have gone through. The future isn't on the agenda of the Israeli media.

It's time to support Rabin and Peres and put the future on the agenda

And I ask myself: Is the public aware that our leaders haven't prepared us for the new challenges peace will bring? They should have made us learn from the Chinese how to turn the nation's attention and energy to industry, and from the Turks how to sell products successfully to Germany.

They should have taught us to respect the achievements of other nations not just in financial terms, but in terms of manufacturing productivity and export growth. These are the acid test of economic achievement.

POSTSCRIPTS

GREAT MOMENTS in bureaucracy: the US Supreme Court upheld a ruling that cut off disability benefits to a quadriplegic man because he earned \$350 a month by typing with his toes.

The court turned down arguments by Paul Spragens, of Sheridan, Wyoming, who suffers from a deformity of the joints that left him with no use of his arms and limited use of his legs. He uses a motorized wheelchair and works as a freelance book indexer, typing with his toes.

In 1988, government officials ruled Spragens was no longer eligible for Social Security benefits because his earnings averaged \$349.26 a month. Under federal regulations, disabled people become ineligible for benefits if they earn more than \$300.

Government officials also are

For the last six years I have been lecturing to tens of thousands of young people, mostly soldiers. The question they always ask is: "What will we do after our military service?"

How do the educational system, the schools, and our leaders respond to this? They drive home the importance of security, ignoring the importance of productivity and exports. The result? Many of these young people go abroad. Some of them never return.

What should the nation's parameters and priorities be, with elections on the horizon? It is vitally important that we elect a responsible group of representatives, one that understands that the keys to economic independence are productivity and exports.

Such a group will aim to live successfully as part of the Middle East and the Mediterranean basin. The standard of living in Israel will rise, enabling young people to make their homes here instead of emigrating.

We have the tools to succeed. There should be no place for fear. Those who frighten us are mostly politicians, who traditionally live on problems and hate solutions.

The writer is an industrialist and entrepreneur.

Unsure footing

ERIC GUTWILLIG

I enjoy reading Jeff Green's literary column. Unfortunately, when he enters the realm of politics, he is on far shakier ground - which makes me wonder whether he wouldn't do better to stick to literature.

In the very first sentence of his article "Zionism is much more than settlements" (August 1), he refers to "... territories occupied after 1967."

Rabeh Sweity, writing in *The Jerusalem Post* of August 8, makes the same mistake. He accuses Prime Minister Rabin of stating that "peace does not mean... the full return of the Palestinian land occupied after 1967."

The term "occupied territories" is used so glibly in connection with the lands of Judea and Samaria that most people gloss over it without second thought. This is unfortunate. The use of this term is harmful to our interests; and as a description of the area referred to, it is simply incorrect.

What exactly is "occupied territory"? According to the *Encyclo-*

Let's hear no more about 'occupied territory'

pedia Britannica, "to occupy" is to "take and hold possession of, as by conquest."

From whom, exactly, did we take Judea and Samaria? When the Ottoman Empire was defeated at the end of World War I, Judea and Samaria were not allocated to Jordan - for the very good reason that Jordan was not yet in existence. The only possible legal claimants were the Jews, who were promised the land under the terms of the British Mandate.

Green says it was inadvisable to squander precious resources on the settlements, with the consequent neglect of social services on this side of the Green Line. He also tells us that he has read convincing articles by experts who are of the opinion that we violated the Geneva Convention.

Like Green, I have also read articles which claim that Israeli settlements in Judea and Samaria violate the Geneva Convention. But I have also read articles, even more convincing ones, to the effect that our activities there are perfectly legal.

As for squandering precious resources - investing in Judea and Samaria would have been a very sound proposition if previous policies had continued to be pursued.

GREEN lists the various "crimes" Israel is supposed to have committed in the "territories," such as demolishing and sealing off houses, deporting citizens, etc. But he writes not a word as to why we resorted to such measures.

The Jews are not a cruel people. If we took severe steps, it was because we had no alternative. What else were we supposed to do with murderers and saboteurs who waged war against schoolchildren and other innocent people?

I detect violence as much as Green does, but I take my hat off to the General Security Service, to whose skill in tracking down many terrorists before they carry out their vile deeds we owe the fact that we can live normal lives, even if they are interrupted from time to time by suicide bombings.

What I utterly fail to understand is why it is wrong to create a settlement in Kedumim, when it is perfectly fine to settle in Nahariya. The former was taken in 1967, the latter in 1948. Neither was in the area allotted to us by the UN.

When a party starts a war, as the Arabs did in 1967, and loses territory in consequence, it can't expect to have that territory returned on a silver platter.

Why isn't Alsace-Lorraine considered occupied territory? It was taken from the Germans by force. Why isn't East Prussia? The list is endless. Only when Israel captures territory is it "occupied." And that largely because some of our own writers insist on applying that label.

It is time we stopped apologizing for crimes we haven't committed, and ask whether Arab aggression didn't have something to do with all the wrongs we are supposed to have done.

And then, please, please, let's hear no more about "occupied territory."

The writer is a Haifa-based freelancer.

هنا من الأصل

The key to good work habits is in the model

PARENTING
RUTH MASON

I have terrible work habits. I procrastinate, I'm disorganized and I get distracted. How can I instill good work habits in my children?
Judy Baumgold, social worker and therapist at Shiluv Institute for Family and Couples Therapy, replies:

My question to you would be, is this your perception of yourself or is it how others experience you as well? We are often overly critical of ourselves and I wonder if this might be what's going on here. It would be worthwhile to check this out with colleagues and friends and see whether their perceptions match yours.

Children are very perceptive and they model themselves on their parents' behavior. Most of the time, children learn from the way their parents act, and only some of the time do they learn from what parents say and tell them to do.

So, if you discover through the feedback you get that you really are disorganized, it would be important for you to change your work habits so that your children can learn from your example.

Alternatively, they can learn to accept that this is the way you are and you can learn to accept that if your children are like this, it's not so bad. If your evaluation of yourself turns out to be based on an overly critical self-perception, it would be important to examine your expectations of yourself so that you can become more accepting of yourself and so that you will have more realistic expectations of yourself and of your children.

If you are overly critical of yourself, your children may pick up that habit, which is much more destructive than being disorganized!

My seven- and eight-year-old sons always fight when the older one has friends over. The younger one always wants to be included and the older one doesn't always want him around. How can I help them resolve this conflict?

Marcia Levine Shiro, M.A. child and adult psychologist, therapist at the Counseling Center for Women in Jerusalem and chief psychologist at Beit Hayeled, says:

Start by acknowledging and legitimizing each one's feelings. The older child wants his own private time with friends and the younger child obviously admires his brother and his choice of friends. It is also hard to play alone when someone else is having fun right near you. Emphasize to both children that the older one has a need and a right to privacy and time alone with friends (as does the younger one).

To the younger one, emphasize that his brother having time alone with his friends doesn't mean that his brother doesn't love him and enjoy playing with him at other times. Being temporarily out of the scene doesn't mean you are permanently unwanted. Involve the boys in finding a solution to a problem of contradictory but legitimate needs. Some possible solutions are:



1. Work hard to have the younger one also invite friends over, especially at the same time.
2. Protect your older son's privacy and need for a separate life.
3. Divide the time when the elder's friends are over so that some of the time the activities are done with the younger brother and some without him.
4. When your older son is occupied, take advantage of the time to do some quality activity with the younger son, even a household chore like cooking, and then you can both benefit.

I highly recommend the book *Siblings Without Rivalry* by Faber and Mazlish.

We're expecting our second child soon. How can we best respond to our five-year-old's questions about how the baby got there (inside me)?

Lisa Kainan, psychologist specializing in cognitive development, answers:

When parents explain sex and birth to their children, they should take into account the child's level of understanding and allow the child's own curiosity to be a guide as to how much detail to give.

The most accessible explanation will be one that is just one level above the child's current level of understanding. This level can easily be determined by directly asking the child some simple questions about where babies come from.

Children can easily sense a parents' embarrassment or anxiety concerning this subject. To avoid this problem, it can be helpful to practice role-playing questions and explanations ahead of time with a partner or friend.

A common misconception among your children is the "digestive fallacy," or the belief that the baby enters and exits the "mommy's tummy" in the same way food does. Children need to

be reassured that their anxieties about this belief are unfounded and they need simple, accurate information about sexual intercourse.

Often, children take too literally such words as "egg" or "seed" and create fanciful accounts of birth, using an agricultural or animal analogy. It can be helpful to address these misperceptions directly using simple pictures or models of male and female anatomy. Children may need repeatedly to ask questions and hear explanations until they can adequately process the new information.

At any age, it's important not to inundate a child with incomprehensible facts or to make a child feel stupid or foolish because she looks at reproduction in a fanciful way.

If you have a question about parenting, write to: Parenting, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

Stable Ukraine is a check on Russian power

THE most important thing about Ukraine's fourth independence day may have been that it took place at all. In 1991, when the republic decisively doomed the crumbling Soviet Union by declaring independence, many Western analysts predicted that Ukraine would also split up.

But Ukraine celebrated its anniversary last Thursday as one of the most stable of the former Soviet states.

Its consolidation of statehood is widely described by Western analysts and governments as a new pillar of stability for Eastern Europe.

And Ukraine's independence, after more than 300 years of rule from Moscow, brings an important reduction in Russia's ability to exert power in Europe.

While independent Ukraine is calm, it is not happy. Ukrainians' poverty is steadily deepening as the country struggles to fashion a workable market economy and overcome its dependence on Russia for key goods and energy supplies.

Meanwhile, ethnic Ukrainians and Russians (about 22 percent of the population) squabble over cultural and linguistic issues. And there is no consensus over what kind of state Ukraine should become.

But four years after the August coup attempt that began the Soviet Union's final breakup, most of the 15 former Soviet republics face greater troubles.

Six of them - Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Tajikistan - are entangled in civil wars. Authoritarian governments in Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan have crushed public dissent, forcing opponents into prison or exile.

Constitutional crises have paralyzed normal politics in Kazakhstan, where the legislature has been suspended, and in Belarus, where unwieldy election laws have left the parliament without a quorum.

By contrast, Ukraine is the only post-Soviet state to have peacefully transferred power from one popularly elected president to another.

Official US assessments of this nation of 51 million suggest that this year's independence day may have been the first it has celebrated as a presumed permanent fixture on Europe's map.

Nineteen months ago, a top-level US intelligence estimate said economic depression and the Ukrainian-Russian ethnic divide were moving Ukraine toward war

and likely partition. But last May, President Clinton - in the first state visit to Ukraine by a US leader - predicted that Ukraine would "provide an essential anchor of stability" in Eastern Europe.

And Ukraine's consolidation of its statehood solidified broader changes in Eastern Europe - establishing, for the first time in centuries, an independent power on Russia's European border that could act as a political counterweight to Moscow. Ukraine's independence reduced Russia's ability to exert influence in Europe - for example, by ending centuries of direct Russian access to the Balkans.

"Ukraine ... will be an important player ... as an accelerator for Russia's transition into something less imperial," said Zbigniew Brzezinski, former national security adviser to president Jimmy Carter.

Ukraine was a central cultural, economic and strategic part of the Russian and Soviet empires for centuries. So now, with an independent Ukraine, "Russia can no longer be an empire" as before, Brzezinski said. "If it can no longer be an empire, it has a greater chance of evolving into a European national state."

While predictions of Ukraine's breakup have faded away, the threat of internal instability remains.

President Leonid Kuchma responded this summer to warnings from social analysts that poverty - deepened by his aggressive market reforms and cutting of the state budget - is increasing the risk of strikes and other conflicts. Some two weeks ago, the government narrowly averted a damaging coal miners' strike by promising quick payment of three months' unpaid wages.

Last month, ethnic and cultural tensions led to Ukraine's first serious political violence since independence. Hundreds of thousands of ethnic Tatars, who were expelled from the Crimea to Central Asia by Stalin in 1944, have been returning to the Black Sea peninsula in recent years.

The Tatars formed "self-defense" groups against intimidation by Russians, who now form the majority of the Crimea's population.

Ukrainian nationalist paramilitary fighters also clashed with police in Kiev last month when they demanded state support for one of Ukraine's Orthodox churches against the rival Russian Orthodox Church.

(Washington Post)

Drinking deeply in a harvest setting at Yonatan

HAIM SHAPIRO

LIKE one of Marie Antoinette's courtiers, I go out to pick grapes with a basket on my arm, while a musical ensemble plays Mozart.

To whet my palate for the job, I drink a glass of the Yarden Gewuertztraminer, a light refreshing semi-dry wine typical of the Rhine Valley, made with white Riesling grapes.

Tiring of my labors after 15 minutes or so, I sit down to a splendid repast in the vineyards of Moshav Yonatan to mark the official opening of the Golan Heights Winery's six-week harvest season. With our dinner, we drink the Yarden Chardonnay, a white wine with all the character and nuances that one usually associates with red wines.

After dinner, we go to see how the real harvest works, with giant combines roaring down the rows of grapevines and stripping the grapes from the vine.

These days the harvest takes place at night, so that there is no chance of premature fermentation in the heat of the sun. From the vineyards, one can see the lights of Rosh Pina, Hatzor and Tiberias twinkling in the distance.

From the fields, the grapes go to a crusher in the winery at Katzrin, where the grapes are gently



Segev Yerovoam (from left) shares the bounty with Victor Schoenfeld and Carmel Elbreich.

squeezed to extract the juice.

This year, according to managing director Segev Yerovoam, the winery expects to harvest about 3,200 tons of grapes, compared to 2,700 tons last year. By the year 2000, he says, without finching, the harvest will reach 5,000 tons.

"We're holding this event to show that we are here," says Yerovoam.

During the past weeks and months, there have been recurring reports that the winery has drawn up contingency plans to relocate somewhere else in Israel if the Golan Heights are given up

to Syria. The two sites mentioned most frequently are Galilee and the highlands around Arad. Segev denies the reports categorically.

Segev notes that, despite its relatively small area, 60 kilometers from north to south and an average of 20 kilometers from

east to west, the Golan has marked differences in climate and geography, suitable for many varieties of top quality grapes. It is not possible, he says, to find another such area elsewhere in Israel.

Winemaker Victor Schoenfeld says that this year the winery has planted almost 200 dunams (50 acres) of new vineyards. It will take four years for these vineyards to bear grapes which can be used in making wine, he adds.

"I have trust in Assad's unwillingness to compromise," says Schoenfeld.

BACK AT the winery's newly expanded visitors' center, we sip Muscat, a sweet, heady, fortified wine, as Yerovoam holds forth about the wine industry. The demand for Yarden wines continues to grow, far beyond the supply, he says. Last year the winery sold some NIS 30 million worth of wine, with three-quarters going to the local market and one-quarter to export.

The winery, he says, will continue to expand, based on economic factors, irrespective of politics. If the planners had taken political considerations into account, he says, they might have stopped development long ago.

"Just think, if we had stopped expanding in 1991 or 1993, where would we be now?"

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BUSINESS & FINANCE

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 30, 1995

La Nationale shares drop 24%

SHARES in La Nationale plunged 24% yesterday, following a 10% fall the previous day. Investors bailed out following the company's disastrous second quarter results, showing losses of more than NIS 45 million.

Before a run up in advance of the results the shares had been among the worst performers among major Mishtanim stocks, as investors were unsettled by the company changing its auditors and by questions over its accounting practices. Having achieved dramatic profit growth over the past few years, the company reported a sharp slowdown in profitability over the last two quarters.

However, La Nationale general manager Moshe Pereg said he is not unduly worried by the drop in the value of the company's shares during the last two days of trading and the insurance company's second quarter losses.

"La Nationale shares increased about 33% since the start of August and up until the publication of the company's results. The 24% drop in the shares today

NEIL COHEN and GALIT LIPKIS BECK

[Tuesday] and the previous days 10% fall are not good, but I am not worried," said Pereg.

"La Nationale's share performance cannot be determined over a period of one or two days," he added. "So far, we have only published the company's first half results. I know what the company has in the pipeline and am not concerned."

The sharp drop in La Nationale's earnings was due primarily to the life insurance sector, which experienced second-quarter losses of NIS 49.9m. compared with profits of NIS 16.88m. in 1994.

In the financial statements, management said the decline reflects a decision to make provisions of NIS 54m. for possible cancellations of kibbutz policies due to arrears in premiums. The losses also reflect lower sales and a decrease in commissions from reinsurance activities.

La Nationale is a subsidiary of Hadar Insurance, which is a subsidiary of the Phoenix Insurance Company.



La Nationale general manager Moshe Pereg.

UMB declares 5.4% profit growth

UNITED Mizrahi Bank completed the second quarter of 1995 with a 5.4 percent growth in net profits to NIS 28.8 million from NIS 27.3m.

In the first six months of the year, net earnings rose 0.1% to NIS 6.2m. from NIS 6.1m. Net return on equity increased to 9.3% on an annualized basis from 7.7% in all of 1994 and 10% in the first half of last year.

Key factors which contributed to the rise in second quarter earnings included a 11.6% growth in profits from financing operations before provision for doubtful debts, to NIS 187.5m. from NIS 168m. The earnings were affected by a rise in financial margins in the shekel sector, the difference between the actual and the known consumer price index and a growth in credit to the public.

The second quarter earnings were also positively influenced by

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

a 4.3% drop in operating and other expenses, to NIS 190.9m. from NIS 199.6m.

The profits were partly offset by a 50% growth in provisions for doubtful debts, to NIS 25m. from NIS 16.7m. The rise was mainly due to larger provisions for loans to the agriculture sector.

In the second quarter operating and other income fell 8.4% to NIS 111m. from NIS 121m. The decrease was due primarily to a lowering of the bank's capital market activities which led to a reduction in commission income from securities and larger provision fund redemptions.

The provision for taxes increased to NIS 45.7m. from NIS 38.3m.

Credit to the public increased 8.8% since the start of the year, to NIS 28.8b. Deposits from the public rose 6.3% to NIS 20.7b.

The bank's total assets rose 4.3% to NIS 35.7b.

In the first six months of the year the bank's share in overseas subsidiaries losses fell to NIS 0.2m. losses from a loss of NIS 8.1m. in the corresponding period last year and a loss of NIS 28.7m. in all of 1994.

The losses were due to United Mizrahi Bank (Switzerland), which completed the first half with a net loss of SF 361,000 from a net profit of SF 583,000 in the same period last year. In the reported period, Mizrahi took measures to increase supervision and control on the Swiss subsidiary's senior management and also made structural changes in the bank.

United Mizrahi Bank Trust Company New York showed a net profit of \$360,000 in the first six months, from a net loss of \$2m. Management attributed the improvement to implementation of efficiency measures.

Two US firms weighing big Challenge Fund investments

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

TWO large US financial institutions are considering making large investments in the Challenge Fund (Etagar), more than five weeks after the fund managers officially completed the three-month fundraising phase.

The fund was established in June 1995 by Joseph Ciechanover, chairman of El Al and former president of PEC in New York and a member of the board of IDB. The aim of the fund is to invest in business in Israel and the Middle East.

To date, the fund has raised close to \$100 million, about 75 percent from US entities and the remainder from Europe, some of whom have never previously invested in Israel.

Ciechanover is scheduled to give presentations of the fund's activities to two powerful US institutions during his visit to the US this week. One of the entities has invested in Israel in the past, while the other has not.

Sources close to Ciechanover said his agreement to give the entities presentations after the conclusion of the fund-raising stage is a sign the institutions are likely to make large investments in the fund. Ciechanover's acquaintance with the entities most likely goes back to when he served as president of PEC in New York.

Among the leading investors already invested in Challenge are Edgar Bronfman, chairman of the

board of Seagram, Dwayne Andreas, chairman of Archer Daniels Midland, businessman Bruce Rapoport, Arie Genger, the owner of Haifa Chemicals, and Charles de Gunzburg of the Bronfman family.

Most of the fund's investors have expressed an interest in exercising their right to co-invest with the fund in projects which the fund managers will invest in, giving Challenge additional leverage.

In addition to Ciechanover the fund is run by Yair Shamir, in the past managing director of Scitex and until recently managing director of Elite.

The fund managers are currently looking at more than 50 potential investments in all areas of the economy. The managers aim to invest mainly in industrial and commercial private companies that have completed the product development or market-building stage and can show a positive cash flow and go public in a few years. Potential projects will be screened by external analysts, accountants and lawyers.

Challenge's target is to invest no more than 50% in any project so as to enable the project managers to remain controlling shareholders in the company. The fund will invest a minimum of \$1m. in each project and have a representative on the board of directors of companies it is invested in.

Israel Chemicals records \$22.1 million net loss

RACHEL NEIMAN

ISRAEL Chemicals yesterday announced a half year net loss of \$22.1 million, including reorganization costs for subsidiaries Fertilizers and Chemicals and closure of ICL's Ramat Gan division. ICL pointed out that without including those costs, six-month net profits were \$18.6m., as in the previous year.

Revenues for the six-month period were \$677m. from \$586m. in 1994. ICL recorded a \$7.9m. one-time expenditure on the reorganization of Fertilizers and Chemicals which affected net profits by \$38.5m. Second quarter net losses were \$32.3 from an \$11.9m. net gain in the parallel period. Quarterly revenues were \$336.9m. from \$304.7m.

Research and development costs increased by 13%, mainly

in pharmaceuticals and in research associated with the metallic magnesium plant constructed by Dead Sea Works.

In June ICL's board of directors decided to move company headquarters to Beersheba. The company expects to reduce its workforce, resulting in a one-time cost of \$3.2m.

ICL's reorganization plan will divide the concern into three main groups: Dead Sea Works, Bromine and Rotem. In July the board decided that ICL Fine Chemicals will become part of the Bromine group.

ICL board chairman Shaul Eisenberg yesterday released a statement denying a Yediot Aharonot report that Fertilizers and Chemicals board chairman Haim Erez had retired following the release of disappointing second quarter results.

Indicators show economic growth is continuing

Post Business Staff

INFLATION is running at an annual rate of about 5 percent, while the economy continues to grow steadily, according to indicators published yesterday by the Central Bureau of Statistics.

The data show a continued rise in retail sales, the export of goods, tourism revenues, and the import of factory inputs in May, June, and July.

Before May, the indicators point to an increase in industrial production, and up to June to increased demand for building inputs. Imports of investment products were stable. The CBS said that, according to its indicators, the trade deficit has stabilized after the sharp growth between October and February.

The import of production inputs grew by 10% in July, following an increase of 20% in the previous three months. Investment by factories in new equipment and machinery was virtually unchanged, following moderate increases in the preceding four months. In May industrial production rose at an annualized rate of 13%, driven by a 39% rise in production at factories whose products are directed at the building industry. Industrial exports rose by 12% on an annualized basis in July.

Consumer durable imports moderated in July, rising by only 2%, as retail sales rose by 7% on an annualized basis.

Israel's High Tech Edge in Banking

Israel's emergence as a world banking center is the result of two factors:

a. A major reservoir of financial talent;
b. An obsession with maintaining the lead in the innovation of high tech banking and financial information services.

Nowhere is this more apparent than Mizrahi Bank, which took the high tech lead early on, and has consistently pioneered new ways to enhance customer service through computerization.

Mizrahi was the first to provide on-line banking with fully networked terminals

throughout its branches. It also pioneered ATMs in Israel, was first with computerized voice answering services in four languages, and introduced home banking which enables customers to perform banking transactions and securities trading via PC.

Recently Mizrahi introduced CallBank™ and FaxBank™, allowing its customers to receive information by pre-arrangement or upon demand from any phone or fax in the world.

For further information please contact one of the offices listed below, or visit any of our 90 branches throughout Israel.

MIZRAHI BANK

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12 Ben Yehuda Street, Jerusalem • Tel: 02-208922
29 Jaffa Road, Jerusalem • Tel: 02-232151
4 Soulsansky Street, Netanya • Tel: 09-605555
12 Kikar Haatzmaut, Netanya • Tel: 09-344577

PSINet to buy 33% of NetVision

RACHEL NEIMAN

PERFORMANCE Systems International (PSINet), NetManage, Elron, and NetVision yesterday announced that PSINet will acquire 33 percent of NetVision.

NetVision is Israel's largest Internet service provider.

"Israel is a world leader in producing Internet software," said William L. Schrader, PSINet president and CEO, who added the new relationship is expected to be formalized by the end of September.

A letter of intent between the four entities stipulates the purchase will be a stock-for-stock swap between PSINet, NetManage, and Elron, after which each will own one-third of NetVision.

The transaction is subject to a number of conditions, including negotiation, preparation, and execu-

tion of definitive agreements.

PSINet is an Internet network, which currently has points of placement (POPs) in 155 cities with a projected coverage of 225 cities by end 1995.

NetVision is an Israeli subsidiary of NetManage (Israel), a fully-owned subsidiary of NetManage (US), in which Elron owns a 2.8 percent share. NetManage develops, markets, and supports Chameleon, an integrated set of tools for Windows environment.

NetVision president and CEO Ruth Alon said the alliance now formed is expected "to take us to the next level in providing international Internet services."

In mid-May Elron and NetVision announced the beginning of a cooperative venture aimed at merging their activities as Internet providers.

Degem Systems posts second quarter net profits

COMPANY RESULTS
RACHEL NEIMAN

DEGEM Systems announced second quarter net profits of NIS 115,000 from NIS 630,000 in 1994. Quarterly revenues were NIS 20.6m. from NIS 22.98m.

Net losses for the half-year period were NIS 3.44m. from net gains of NIS 4.4m. in 1994. Revenues were NIS 40.29m. from NIS 51.7m.

Sano Bruno Enterprises announced second quarter net profits of NIS 3m. from NIS 89,000. Revenues were NIS 38.13m. from NIS 33.9m. Earnings per share were NIS 0.25 from NIS 0.07.

Net profits for the six-month period were NIS 6.76m. from NIS 2.85 million in 1994. Quarterly net profits were NIS 69.3m. from NIS 65.85m. Earnings per share were NIS 0.55 from NIS 0.23.

NECA Chemicals reported second quarter net profits of NIS 47,000 from NIS 835,000. Revenues were NIS 22.14m. from NIS 26.12m. Earnings per share were NIS 0.35 from NIS 5.90.

Fenchwanger Industries second quarter net profits were NIS 4.9m. from NIS 6.5m. in 1994. Revenues were NIS 84m. from NIS 65.86m. Earnings per share were NIS 1.87 from NIS 2.38.

Mario Laznik Construction second quarter net profits were NIS 2.54m. from net losses of NIS 11.25m. Revenues were NIS 90m. from NIS 25.28m.

Half-year net profits were NIS 1.17m. from net losses of NIS 21.17m.

Spectronics quarterly net losses were \$145,000 from net losses of \$536,000. Revenues were \$1.4m. from \$1.35m.

Government to sell 7.5% of its IDB stock

GALIT LIPKIS BECK

THE government will sell 7.5 percent of its shares in Israel Discount Bank through an offering on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange in November, according to MI Holdings, the government-owned company in charge of the bank sale process. The sale is expected to bring in about \$100 million.

As part of the sale, the government will offer 0.75% of the shares to Discount Bank employees.

At the start of July, MI Holdings informed IDB of the sale of the shares to the public as soon as possible. The bank, together with MI Holdings, is currently in the process of

preparing a prospectus which will be submitted to the Securities Authority for approval.

The prospectus will include information concerning IDB's plans to sell a package of 60% of the share capital of Mercantile Discount Bank as a controlling unit. The sale is in accordance with the Ministry of Finance instructions from February, 1995.

IDB reported the second quarter with net profits of NIS 43.2 million, compared with NIS 54.9m. in the same period last year. Net return on equity on an annual basis increased to 8% compared with 6.7% in all of 1994.

Ministries fail to agree on opening of local markets to foreign foods

Post Business Staff

TALKS being conducted by the Industry and Trade, Finance, and Agriculture ministries on how to open the local market to competition from imports, as required by the multilateral trade agreements reached in the GATT's Uruguay Round, failed to reach a conclusion this week.

In the next few days, the Industry and Trade Ministry will present a proposal on opening the economy to foreign processed food products to the Interministerial Economics Committee.

The proposal seeks to prevent the competitiveness of Israeli companies from being harmed. In 1991, the government decided on a policy of gradually opening up the economy to foreign competition by reducing tariffs to 12 percent over a seven-year period. Processed agricultural products are still protected, however.

The ministries are in disagreement over how to include the agricultural component into the industrial products category.

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS

Patash (foreign currency deposit rates) (29.8.95)

Currency (deposit term)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$500,000)	5.000	5.000	5.250
U.S. dollar (\$100,000)	4.875	4.875	5.125
Pound sterling (£100,000)	3.150	3.150	3.150
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.750	1.750	2.000
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	1.750	1.750	2.000
Yen (10 million yen)	—	—	—

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (29.8.9)

	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS	BANKNOTES	Rep. Rates**
	Buy	Buy	Sell
Currency basket	3.4374	3.4329	3.4332
U.S. dollar	3.0251	3.0739	3.12
German mark	2.0621	2.0554	2.13
Pound sterling	4.8237	4.7593	4.83
French franc	0.5678	0.5678	0.58
Japanese yen (100)	3.1553	3.1550	3.20
Dutch florin	1.8598	1.8599	1.80
Swiss franc	2.5011	2.5415	2.45
Swedish krona	0.4132	0.4200	0.40
Norwegian krone	0.4785	0.4781	0.48
Danish krone	0.5309	0.5305	0.52
Finland mark	0.0616	0.0709	0.07
Canadian dollar	2.2547	2.2511	2.21
Australian dollar	2.2644	2.2610	2.22
S. African rand	0.0261	0.0265	0.24
Belgian franc (10)	1.0221	1.0183	1.01
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8235	2.8779	2.88
Italian lira (1000)	1.8526	1.8524	1.82
Jordanian dinar	—	—	4.14
Egyptian pound	—	—	0.88
ECU	3.8567	3.8190	—
Irish punt	4.7918	4.8891	4.70
Spanish peseta (100)	2.4085	2.4494	2.38

* These rates vary according to bank. ** Bank of Israel.

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Key Representative Rates

US dollar ... NIS 3.0480	0.00%
Sterling ... NIS 4.7223	-0.22%
Mark ... NIS 2.0751	-0.12%

INTEL STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

Index	Last	Change
DJ Industrials	4008.00	+14.00
DJ Tech	2004.00	+10.00
DJ Comp	1657.00	+10.00
S&P 500	270.15	+0.15
NYSE	2004.00	+10.00
AMEX	2004.00	+10.00

Other stock market indexes

Index	Last	Change
FTSE 100	3002.00	+23.00
Nikkei 225	18135.00	+100.00
Hong Kong Hang Seng	9152.00	+75.00
Shanghai	1212.00	+3.00

Israeli stocks in NY

Symbol	Last	Change
AFIA	54.00	+0.00
AFIM	1.00	+0.00
AFIS	1.00	+0.00
AFIT	1.00	+0.00
AFIV	1.00	+0.00
AFIX	1.00	+0.00
AFIZ	1.00	+0.00
AFJ	1.00	+0.00
AFK	1.00	+0.00
AFM	1.00	+0.00
AFN	1.00	+0.00
AFQ	1.00	+0.00
AFR	1.00	+0.00
AFS	1.00	+0.00
AFU	1.00	+0.00
AFV	1.00	+0.00
AFW	1.00	+0.00
AFX	1.00	+0.00
AFY	1.00	+0.00
AFZ	1.00	+0.00
AF1	1.00	+0.00
AF2	1.00	+0.00
AF3	1.00	+0.00
AF4	1.00	+0.00
AF5	1.00	+0.00
AF6	1.00	+0.00
AF7	1.00	+0.00
AF8	1.00	+0.00
AF9	1.00	+0.00
AF0	1.00	+0.00

(All figures are closing quotes)

Comstock Trading Ltd. (Date 29-AUG-95)

INTEL-MONEY MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US)

Country	Rate	Change
Canada	0.70	+0.00
France	6.55	+0.00
Germany	2.48	+0.00
Italy	1.36	+0.00
Japan	146.00	+0.00
UK	4.72	+0.00
Switzerland	1.46	+0.00
Spain	166.37	+0.00
Belgium	36.36	+0.00
Netherlands	2.20	+0.00
Australia	0.75	+0.00
New Zealand	0.65	+0.00
South Africa	4.50	+0.00
Sweden	8.46	+0.00
Norway	4.76	+0.00
Denmark	6.46	+0.00
Finland	5.94	+0.00
Ireland	0.78	+0.00
Portugal	20.48	+0.00
Greece	340.75	+0.00
Turkey	1.80	+0.00
Israel	3.05	+0.00

Libor rates

Term	Rate	Change
3 months	5.75	+0.00
6 months	5.75	+0.00
9 months	5.75	+0.00
12 months	5.75	+0.00
15 months	5.75	+0.00
18 months	5.75	+0.00
21 months	5.75	+0.00
24 months	5.75	+0.00
27 months	5.75	+0.00
30 months	5.75	+0.00
33 months	5.75	+0.00
36 months	5.75	+0.00
39 months	5.75	+0.00
42 months	5.75	+0.00
45 months	5.75	+0.00
48 months	5.75	+0.00
51 months	5.75	+0.00
54 months	5.75	+0.00
57 months	5.75	+0.00
60 months	5.75	+0.00

(All market figures are from approximately 2:30 PM local time. All rates are closing quotes.)

Comstock Trading Ltd. (Date 29-AUG-95)

Foreign financial data courtesy of

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INTEL-COMMODITIES AND METALS

US commodities

Commodity	Price	Change
Cocoa (Sep)	1918	-30
Coffee (Sep)	168	-10
Gold (Sep)	384.50	+0.25
Oil (Sep)	10.25	-0.05
Wheat (Sep)	10.25	-0.05
Orange juice (Sep)	10.25	-0.05
Crude oil (Sep)	10.25	-0.05

London commodities

Commodity	Price	Change
Cocoa (Sep)	1918	-30
Coffee (Sep)	168	-10
Gold (Sep)	384.50	+0.25
Oil (Sep)	10.25	-0.05
Wheat (Sep)	10.25	-0.05
Orange juice (Sep)	10.25	-0.05
Crude oil (Sep)	10.25	-0.05

Spot market metals (US)

Commodity	Price	Change
Gold (Sep)	384.50	+0.25
Silver (Sep)	10.25	-0.05
Copper (Sep)	10.25	-0.05
Aluminum (Sep)	10.25	-0.05
Zinc (Sep)	10.25	-0.05
Nickel (Sep)	10.25	-0.05
Lead (Sep)	10.25	-0.05
Iron (Sep)	10.25	-0.05
Steel (Sep)	10.25	-0.05

London metal fixes

Commodity	Price	Change
Gold (Sep)	384.50	+0.25
Silver (Sep)	10.25	-0.05
Copper (Sep)	10.25	-0.05
Aluminum (Sep)	10.25	-0.05
Zinc (Sep)	10.25	-0.05
Nickel (Sep)	10.25	-0.05
Lead (Sep)	10.25	-0.05
Iron (Sep)	10.25	-0.05
Steel (Sep)	10.25	-0.05

(All market figures are from approximately 2:30 PM local time. All rates are closing quotes.)

Comstock Trading Ltd. (Date 29-AUG-95)

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Multi-sided trading

Commercial Banks

Name	Price	% Change
Bank Leumi	150.00	-0.3
Bank Hapoalim	150.00	-0.3
Bank Mizrahi	150.00	-0.3
Bank Hapoalim	150.00	-0.3
Bank Mizrahi	150.00	-0.3
Bank Leumi	150.00	-0.3
Bank Hapoalim	150.00	-0.3
Bank Mizrahi	150.00	-0.3
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Graf, Agassi breeze into second round

NEW YORK (AP) — After sputtering for one set, top-seeded Steffi Graf got her game together and trampled Amanda Coetzer 6-7(1-7), 6-1, 6-4 yesterday to move into the second round of the US Open.

In men's action, top seeded Andre Agassi of the US, beat fellow American Bryan Shelton, 6-2, 6-2, 6-2.

Graf was playing for the first time since losing to Coetzer in her opening match at the Canadian Open two weeks ago.

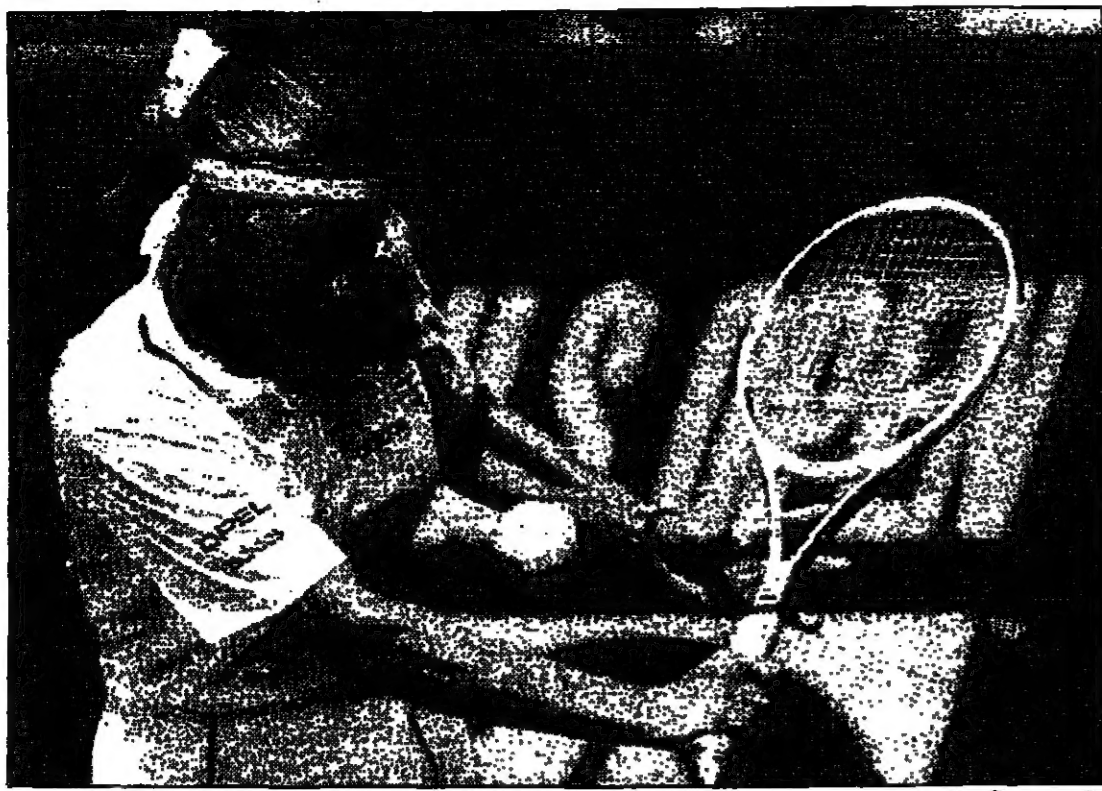
At first, it appeared Graf would tumble again. Her game was uncharacteristically filled with errors. But, Coetzer also made a bundle of errors and needed nine set points to take the lead.

The match was exactly one hour old and Graf was in danger of becoming the first No. 1 seeded woman to fall in the first round since seedings began in 1922.

But Graf found the range on her groundstrokes, especially her big forehand, and Coetzer began to hit more errors than winners. The three-time US Open champion ripped through the second set and appeared to be in high gear as she took a 5-1 lead in the third.

Coetzer, however, wasn't finished. In a show of determination and baseline tennis, she fought back, moving Graf from side to side, changing speeds and spins. Three straight games Coetzer won, pulling to 4-5.

It was Graf who finally prevailed on the Louis Armstrong Stadium court, closing it out on her second match point. But Coetzer had kept her on the court for 2 hours, 15 minutes — usually a week's worth of matches for the



WICKED BACKHAND — Top seed Steffi Graf fires the ball back to Amanda Coetzer in yesterday's match.

German right-hander.

One seeded player did fall. Austrian Barbara Paulus eliminated No. 13 Iva Majoli of Croatia 6-4, 6-4.

In other matches involving seeded players yesterday, No. 7 Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia defeated Jeff Tarango, playing in his first match since being defeated at Wimbledon, 6-0, 6-4, 7-5 and No. 13 Marc Rosset of Switzerland stopped Italy's Andrea Gaudenzi 6-7(3-7), 6-3, 6-1, 6-0.

On Monday, Monica Seles made a triumphant return to the US Open with a display of hard-

hitting tennis, needing only 56 minutes to trample Ruxandra Dragomir of Romania 6-3, 6-1 in her first-round match.

"I was nervous," Seles said of her first match at the National Tennis Center since she captured the women's singles title in 1992. "I was just real nervous that I was going to play the Open."

Sidelined since being stabbed during a tournament in April 1993, Seles returned to the sport two weeks ago in Toronto, winning the Canadian Open. She hasn't lost a match at the US Open since falling in the third round in 1990.

Dragomir, who had never played Seles before, was impressed.

"She is unbelievable," the Romanian said. "I couldn't even imagine that she is that good."

Andre Agassi, the defending men's champion and No. 1 seed, followed Graf onto Stadium Court, taking on Bryan Shelton, whose only two ATP Tour titles have come on grass at Newport, Rhode Island.

Also scheduled to play yesterday was No. 2 Pete Sampras, who won here in 1990 and 1993.

Other matches scheduled for yesterday involving seeded play-

ers pit No. 4 Conchita Martinez against Kathy Rinaldi-Strunkel, No. 5 Novotna against Sandra Cecchini, No. 7 Kimiko Date against Silke Meier, No. 10 Lindsay Davenport against Petra Kamstra, No. 11 Anke Huber against Yayuk Basuki, No. 12 Natasha Zvereva against Jana Kandarr and No. 14 Mary Joe Fernandez against Judith Wiesner.

Seles appeared to be in a hurry to get into the next round when she finally got on Stadium Court. She took no time between serves, and was always waiting for Dragomir to settle down for the next point to begin. She said it was nerves.

"Today is very different obviously because it is the first time you are going out there to play at the Open," Seles said. "I mean, there is so much excitement, so much nervousness."

"I went out there just trying to focus on the ball, and I wasn't focusing on the ball. I was hitting them as they were coming. I was missing them as they were coming. I had no plans."

All the time she talked, she smiled, obviously pleased to be back on a tennis court and playing in a Grand Slam tournament. But her nervousness showed in her giggling and in the way she constantly drummed with her left hand.

"Tonight, I was having fun, but ... my face was so serious," Seles said. "I said, 'Relax, Monica, your face, you are so tight.' My muscles were just like so tight. But that is normal, I think. As the matches go on, I will be more relaxed."

Zohar, Nimni axed for Slovakia game

ORI LEWIS

ISRAEL national team coach Shlomo Scharf has dropped two Maccabi Tel Aviv stalwarts from the 18-man squad that will travel to Slovakia for the European championship group one qualifier in Kosice on September 6.

Announcing his line-up yesterday, Scharf gave no reason for axing the two midfielders, Itzik Zohar and Avi Nimni.

But it appears he was not impressed by their performances in Maccabi Tel Aviv's 1-0 home defeat by Grasshoppers of Zurich in the European champions' league qualifying round last week.

Israel must beat Slovakia in order to stay in with a chance of qualifying for the finals in England next year.

Among the players called up is veteran Tottenham Hotspur striker Ronny Rosenzweig, despite his lack of form and match practice.

Gadi Brumer of Maccabi Tel Aviv and David Amsalem of Bnei Yehuda have been recalled in place of Nimni and Zohar, neither was included in the squad which beat Hungary 2-0 in a

friendly match in early August.

Scharf may be pinning his hopes on the 21-year-old Brumer. The Maccabi Tel Aviv player had an excellent debut turnout for the national team last May when he was named the outstanding player in Israel's 2-1 loss to Brazil at Ramat Gan. He also scored Israel's first-ever goal against the World Cup holders.

The squad is still largely comprised of Maccabi Haifa players, eight of whom are in the 18 to travel to Slovakia.

Another notable omission still is Ronen Harazi. The Bnei Yehuda striker is still out of action, recovering from a severe stomach-muscle strain.

Squad:
Goalkeepers — Ronen Ginzburg (Bnei Yehuda), Rami Cohen (Maccabi Haifa).
Defenders — Felix Hailon (Hapoel Haifa), Avshalom Janno (Maccabi Haifa), Amir Shalita (Maccabi Tel Aviv), Nir Eliezer (Maccabi Tel Aviv), Alex Harazi (Maccabi Haifa), Moshe Glas (Maccabi Haifa).
Midfielders — Gadi Brumer (Maccabi Tel Aviv), David Amsalem (Bnei Yehuda), Tal Busin (Hapoel Haifa), Alex Harazi (Maccabi Haifa), Ronen Levy (Maccabi Haifa), Haim Revivo (Maccabi Haifa), Eyal Berkovic (Maccabi Haifa).
Forwards — Eli Dror (Maccabi Tel Aviv), Ofer Mizrahi (Maccabi Haifa), Ronen Rosenzweig (Tottenham Hotspur).

SPORTS BRIEFS

Israel wins in volleyball

Israel beat Sweden in men's volleyball yesterday, 15-9, 4-15, 15-7, 15-11 at the University Games in Fukuoka, Japan. **AP**

Arsenal draws Nottingham Forest

Summary of last night's English Premier League soccer match: Arsenal 1 (David Platt 41st minute), Nottingham Forest 1 (Kevin Campbell 63rd). Halftime 1-0. **Reuter**

England names team for Colombia friendly

LONDON (AP) — England coach Terry Venables yesterday named his squad for the September 6 friendly at Wembley against Colombia.

David Seaman, Arsenal; Tim Flowers, Blackburn; Rob Jones, Liverpool; Gary Neville, Manchester United; Tony Adams, Arsenal; Steve Howey, Newcastle; Gary Pallister, Manchester United; Graeme Le Saux, Blackburn; Stuart Pearce, Nottingham

Forest; Steve McManaman, Liverpool; David Platt, Arsenal; Robert Lee, Newcastle; Jamie Redknapp, Liverpool; David Batty, Blackburn; John Barnes, Liverpool; Paul Gascoigne, Glasgow Rangers; Dennis Wise, Chelsea; Teddy Sheringham, Tottenham; Peter Beardsley, Newcastle; Nick Barmby, Middlesbrough; Stan Collymore, Liverpool; John Salako, Coventry; Alan Shearer, Blackburn.

SCOREBOARD

LONDON (Reuter) — Scores at the close of the first day of four-day English County Championship cricket matches on yesterday:

At Worcester: Somerset 267-4 after 84 overs (P.Holloway 74, G.Reese 53) v Worcestershire. At Trent Bridge: Essex 198-4 after 90 overs (P.Walker 66 not out) v Nottinghamshire. At Uxbridge: Northamptonshire 237-3 after 85.5 overs (R.Bailey 98 not out, R.Montgomery 50) v Middlesex. At Chelmsford: Essex 315-9 after 86 overs (M.Waugh 113 not out, G.Gooch 68) v Derbyshire. At The Oval: Surrey 221 in 57.5 overs (G.Thorpe 61, A.Hollands 51, G.Chapple 4-44). Lancashire 39-0 after 14.5 overs. At Edgbaston: Warwickshire v Gloucestershire — No play because of rain.

At Leicester: Leicestershire v Glamorgan — No play because of rain.

Israel bowlers beat Scotland

NORMAN SPIRO

IN sweltering summer weather, Scotland's world champion women's lawn bowls team found its Israeli counterpart "too hot to handle."

In convincing style, Israel won the third Test at Ra'anana over the weekend to wrap up the series 3-0. Israel's squad surprised their supporters and shocked their opponents with a consistent all-around world class performance.

Merle Swerdlow won her third consecutive singles, 25-20 against single champion Sarah Gourlay. Rene Kusanman and Carmel Scoop, after losing their first two encounters, played superbly to peel 16-0, after trailing 4-13 at the tenth end. Their opponents were Gourlay and the experienced Frances Whyte.

Maureen Hirschowitz, in the form that had won her two South-African masters titles, skipped her triples team of Swerdlow, Isobel Myers, and four team of Kusanman, Scoop and Myers, to an unbeaten record in the series.

Both teams won their final matches: 15-12 in the triples and 22-20 in the fours.

Murray, Indians rout Blue Jays

CLEVELAND (AP) — Eddie Murray homered and singled during a seven-run second inning Monday night, powering the Cleveland Indians past the Toronto Blue Jays 9-1, for its fifth straight win.

Murray led off the big inning with his 16th home run, then capped it with a two-run single that finished Giovanni Carrara (1-4). The home run was the 474th of Murray's career, one away from tying Stan Musial and Willie Stargell for 16th place.

Paul Sorrento and Manny Ramirez also homered, and Kenny Lofton had four hits for Cleveland.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

W	L	Pct.	GB
70	21	.769	—
54	39	.579	16
54	39	.579	16
48	45	.511	22.5

Central Division

W	L	Pct.	GB
77	35	.688	—
56	56	.513	19.5
56	56	.513	19.5
48	63	.435	26.5
40	72	.357	37

West Division

W	L	Pct.	GB
67	47	.588	—
59	55	.518	8
57	56	.505	8.5
55	60	.479	12.5

Winner Chad Ogea (7-3) gave up one run and seven hits in 5½ innings, walking two and striking out three.

Royals 4, Yankees 3
Jeff Montgomery got Ruben Sierra to ground into a game-ending double play with the bases loaded, preserving the win for Kansas City.

The Royals, who played at home Sunday and were scheduled to play at home again yesterday, made a one-day trip to New York to make up a game wiped out by the delayed start of the season. The Yanks lost for the ninth time in 10 games.

Montgomery earned his 24th save, and dropped to the Yankees to 0-49 when trailing after eight innings, by inducing Sierra's grounder. Sierra earlier had hit a solo home run and RBI single.

Dillon Torres (1-1) got his first win in the majors. Jack McDowell (11-10) pitched a nine-inning complete game.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Cubs 7, Braves 5

Sammy Sosa hit a pair of two-run homers and scored three times as host Chicago ended Atlanta's seven-game winning streak.

Jaine Navarro (12-5) allowed six

MONDAY'S AL RESULTS:
Cleveland 9, Toronto 1
Kansas City 4, New York 3
Minnesota 4, Texas 3 (10)
Chicago 6, Milwaukee 5

MONDAY'S NL RESULTS:

Chicago 7, Atlanta 5
Cincinnati 5, St. Louis 2
Florida 6, Houston 4
Colorado 4, Pittsburgh 3

hits and had a career-high nine strikeouts in 7½ innings.

Ryan Myers pitched the final 1½ innings to reach 30 saves for the fourth time in his career.

Steve Avery (6-10) allowed five runs and 11 hits in six innings. His losses are Atlanta's only two in nine games against Chicago this season.

Martinez 6, Astros 4
Florida came from behind twice and extended their home winning streak to 14 games.

Quilvio Vera scored twice and drove in two runs for the Marlins, who completed a four-game sweep. Houston has now lost 11 in a row, a club record.

Dave Weathers (4-5) got the win in relief of Mark Valdes who was making his major league debut.

Doug Brocail (4-3) allowed 10 hits and five runs in 3½ innings.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

W	L	Pct.	GB
72	40	.643	—
59	55	.518	14
54	59	.478	20.5
49	65	.431	26

Central Division

W	L	Pct.	GB
71	41	.634	—
57	56	.504	14.5
56	57	.496	15.5
47	66	.416	24.5

West Division

W	L	Pct.	GB
80	54	.598	—
59	55	.518	1
55	57	.491	4
52	61	.460	7.5

Beckham shines in Man. United win

LONDON (Reuter) — A goal by midfielder David Beckham gave Manchester United some measure of revenge over the side that supplanted it when they sent Premier League champion Blackburn plunging to its third defeat in six days on Monday night.

Beckham, the 20-year-old thrown in at the deep end by manager Alex Ferguson as the replacement for Andrei Kanchelskis, netted his second of the season mid-way through the second half to give United a fully-deserved 2-1 away triumph.

After a goalless first-half Lee Sharpe was on hand to poke the ball home and give United the lead just 30 seconds after the interval after efforts by Paul Scholes and Roy Keane had been blocked.

Alan Shearer replied with an emphatic volley for his third of the campaign as Blackburn fought hard

to avoid a third straight league defeat.

But Beckham's strike in the 67th minute sparked unrestrained joy among the traveling fans.

United had to suffer an anxious last 16 minutes after Keane, the first of seven players booked, earned himself a second yellow card for clearly diving after being tackled in the penalty area.

Blackburn attacked feverishly in an attempt to find the equalizer but United defended well and twice came close to increasing its lead.

The result boosted United into third place in the table with nine points, the same as early-leader Newcastle, but Manchester has played one match more.

Blackburn remained in the bottom half with just one win from four games.

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Hizbullah escalates attacks in zone

Heaviest shelling in months

DAVID RUDGE

THE heaviest exchanges of fire in months rocked south Lebanon yesterday as Hizbullah launched a series of long-range attacks against IDF and South Lebanese Army positions in the security zone.

There were no casualties among IDF or SLA troops in the fierce fighting, while Hizbullah announced that two of its men had been killed.

The extremist Shi'ite organization did not say where or when the two were killed, giving rise to speculation they may have died in recent IAF air strikes on Hizbullah targets north of the zone.

The deaths of the two yesterday brought to 13 the number of Hizbullah gunmen killed by IDF and SLA troops in the past 10 days.

The fighting began in the early morning when Hizbullah gunmen opened fire with mortars, machine guns and anti-tank missiles at IDF and SLA positions in the Bint J'ail region, in the western sector, and Dabsha and Huneh regions in the eastern part of the zone.

Later, Hizbullah gunmen launched long-range attacks on another SLA outpost in the Swadiah area, in the eastern sector of the zone, and twice fired at IDF and SLA posts in the Al-mane and Shomriya region in the zone's central sector.

IDF and SLA gunners re-

turned fire, blasting suspected Hizbullah targets north of the zone. Military sources stressed that in many of the cases Hizbullah gunmen fired mortars and other long-range weapons from inside villages north of the zone, using the civilian population there as cover.

Israel views such action as a breach of the Operation Accountability understandings under which Israel agreed to refrain from firing at residential areas in return for a Hizbullah commitment to cease Katyusha rocket attacks on the Galilee.

The Paris-based *Al Watan al-Arabi* newspaper reported, however, that Hizbullah's activities in towns and villages north of the zone is not to the liking of all local residents.

According to the paper which quoted what it termed "reliable sources," many local residents, especially in and around Nabatieh, have complained about the high-handed attitude of Hizbullah gunmen.

It also reported that in one incident recently, Hizbullah gunmen "arrested" four men while they were hunting pigs in a wadi not far from Sidon.

The four were reportedly taken under guard to a Hizbullah command post in the port city where they were interrogated about their activities and allegedly tortured.



National Labor Court Judge Elisheva Barak celebrates after being sworn in yesterday at a Beit Hanassi ceremony attended by her husband, Supreme Court President Aharon Barak (left), and Justice Minister David Liba'i. (Brian Heudler)

Shetreet promises religious equality

HAIM SHAPIRO

RELIGIOUS Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet admitted yesterday that the religious services offered to the Moslem, Druse and Christian communities were inferior to those for Jews and promised to rectify the situation.

"For decades, the Declaration of Independence promise of full equality for all has not been implemented," Shetreet told leaders of the non-Jewish communities during a meeting at Beit Hanassi.

He promised that improvements would come in every area, although he admitted that by increasing support, the ministry

may also be criticized for interfering in religion. Some interference is necessary, he said, if only to ensure that the recipients fulfill criteria.

Shetreet also noted that the improvements would not come immediately, but would be spread out over a few years.

Before the recent budget cuts, he added, he had hoped to improve the situation more quickly. The plan, he said, would mainly relate to the Moslem community, since it was the largest.

This involves a building pro-

gram for religious courts and a training program for religious judges in order to fill vacant places.

In a printed summary, it included plans for a new body, a center for development of Moslem religious services and buildings, which would care for the upkeep of mosques, shrines, and cemeteries.

The salaries of Moslem religious functionaries will also be equivalent to those of rabbis, he promised.

"If an imam at Tel Sheva has to

collect contributions at the end of the prayers in order to make up his salary, this is not worthy of the state of Israel," he said.

President Ezer Weizman said he placed great importance on this effort and that he would take personal responsibility for its implementation.

However, not all those present were entirely happy with the way the plan is being implemented.

Rafik Haj Yihye, head of the Taiba local council, said Shetreet had not consulted with local leaders or religious leaders before presenting the plan.

Mt. Carmel tunnel project reaches final bid stage

DAVID RUDGE

WORK on the country's first toll road, the \$120 million Mt. Carmel tunnel project, is expected to start within two years, despite delays resulting from objections to the scheme.

Haifa Mayor Amram Mitzna met with Finance Minister Avraham Shohat on Monday, after which it was announced that most of the obstacles to the project had now been overcome.

Mitzna said the vast majority of Haifa residents support the project and the objectors are only a small group.

Delays to the project have aris-

en as a result of problems in expropriating some of the land, plus opposition by conservationists.

Transport Minister Yisrael Kessar announced yesterday that five international concerns have reached the final bidding stage, out of 13 groups which originally submitted bids for the project.

He said the process of deciding which of the five would be awarded the contract for the massive excavation and tunnel construction project would be completed within a year and work would

start 12 months later.

Two tunnels, each with two lanes in both directions, will be cut through the heart of the mountain, linking the southern outskirts of Haifa with the north.

The five-kilometer tunnels will run from the bottom of Rehov Freud in the south to the checkpoint junction at the northern entrance to the city, bypassing Haifa's congested downtown.

The Knesset has already passed a law enabling the developers, a private concern, to charge motorists a toll for using the road.

Labor begins campaign to attract new members

SARAH HONIG

to the Labor fold.

The drive is a prerequisite to holding the primaries, because only those who officially register as Labor members and pay party membership dues will be entitled to participate in the primaries as candidates or voters.

Shahal said the party has about 75,000 members, far below the 180,000 who registered in the last membership drive. However, the number quickly and drastically dipped after the primaries, after it emerged that many were bogus and many others — employees in Histadrut-owned enterprises — were coerced into registering.

The Likud counts some 200,000 members. Shahal yesterday predicted confidently that, "When this membership drive is over, Labor will clearly emerge as the single largest party in Israel. I am not just expressing a hope, but I know what I speak of. This is something I am sure of and know for a fact."

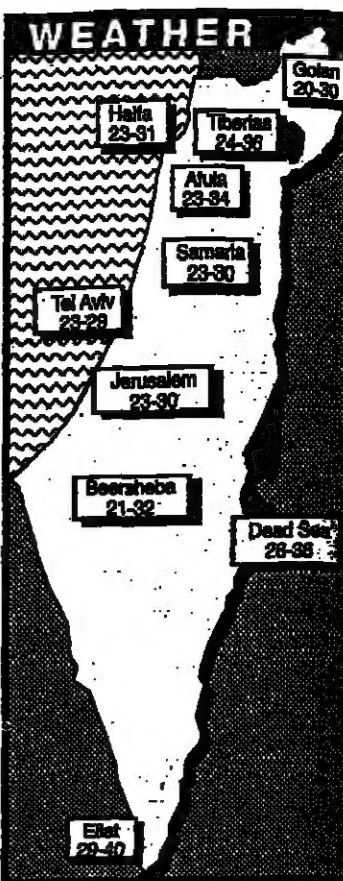
Labor Party Secretary-General

Nissim Zivili and Shahal both plan to appeal to Ramon and MKs Amir Peretz and Shmuel Avital to return to Labor, "so as not to miss the opportunity to be elected to the new Labor list of candidates. If they do not pay their party dues now, they will be left out," Shahal warned the trio.

He also expressed the hope that soldiers would be allowed to participate in party primaries. The idea has won preliminary approval by the IDF, but there is still considerable opposition to it.

Labor MK Ori Orr said yesterday that, "It is unthinkable that everyone, in any military unit, would know which party a soldier supports by noting which primary he takes part in. It would be different if all primaries were held on the same day, but this is not the case. Moreover, it is unhealthy for each soldier to realize the political affiliation of his commanders. There is no surer way to introduce politicization into the IDF."

Labor plans to aim its campaign at the hip members of the younger generation.



Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. Decline in temperatures.

AROUND THE WORLD

	LOW	HIGH	
Alexandria	13	21	cloudy
Buenos Aires	15	21	cloudy
Cairo	18	28	cloudy
Chicago	10	17	cloudy
Copenhagen	10	17	cloudy
Frankfurt	11	18	cloudy
Geneva	11	18	cloudy
Hamburg	11	18	cloudy
Hong Kong	23	29	cloudy
London	13	18	cloudy
Los Angeles	18	24	cloudy
Madrid	18	24	cloudy
Moscow	10	17	cloudy
New York	15	21	cloudy
Paris	15	21	cloudy
Rome	15	21	cloudy
Stockholm	10	17	cloudy
Tel Aviv	23	29	cloudy
Tokyo	18	24	cloudy
Vienna	11	18	cloudy
Zurich	11	18	cloudy

Winning numbers and cards

IN last night's weekly Lotto drawing, the winning numbers were 3, 5, 25, 34, 38, 42 and the additional number was 4.

Winning cards

In yesterday's Mifal Hapayis daily Chance card draw, the lucky cards were the eight of spades, eight of hearts, ace of diamonds, and nine of clubs.

L'Oreal settles boycott case for \$1.4m.

HILLEL KUTTLER
WASHINGTON

COSMETICS giant L'Oreal agreed yesterday to pay more than \$1.4 million to settle US Commerce Department charges it cooperated with the Arab boycott of Israel.

John Despres, assistant secretary of commerce for export enforcement, said that US anti-boycott laws "will continue to be enforced vigorously until the boycott is completely ended."

According to L'Oreal spokesman Seth Goldschlager, the French-based conglomerate in 1989 asked its American subsidiary, Helena Rubinstein Inc., now known as Parbel of Florida Inc., for information on its dealings in Israel. The information was provided, he said.

Although such inquiries are legal under French law, they are a violation of American law because the information could be used to furnish information to the Arab League, he said.

L'Oreal had sought to be removed from the Arab blacklist of companies dealing with Israel, but never interrupted its business dealings in Israel, he said. It has a factory in Migdal Ha'emek.

The Commerce Department said it had charged L'Oreal with violating US law by not reporting it received requests for information from the Arab League.

According to a consent agreement drawn up by the Commerce Department's Office of Anti-Boycott Compliance and signed by the two sides yesterday, the document "does not constitute a finding... that Parbel engaged in discriminatory business practices in furtherance or in compliance with the Arab League's economic boycott of Israel."

In a letter to Anti-Defamation League director Abraham Foxman, L'Oreal chairman Lindsay Owens-Jones agreed the company "should not have replied to boycott inquiries" from the Arab League and vowed "such action will not happen again."

L'Oreal decided to settle, said Goldschlager, because litigation "would have obscured L'Oreal's positive track record on Israel."



MINISTRY OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS Director-General's Bureau REQUESTS FOR SUPPORT

The National Budget Principles Law 1985 establishes the right to submit requests for support, from funds allocated to the Ministry, under the 1995 state budget.

The Minister for Religious Affairs has accepted the main recommendations of the Freedman Commission and, on the basis of these recommendations, criteria have been established for the provision of such support by the Ministry (Yod Pei 5755, p. 4155, of July 26, 1995).

Public institutions, as defined by law, which are not bodies subsidiary to a state agency, whose objective is an objective included in the above criteria, and which seek support from the Ministry of Religious Affairs, may obtain a copy of the amended criteria and forms on which to apply for support, from the following locations and at the times stated below.

Office	Dates Criteria and Forms are Available
Jerusalem - Min. of Religious Affairs 5 Ben Yehuda	Between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, Sunday - Thursday, from today, Wednesday, Aug. 30, until the last date for submitting applications
Tel Aviv - Min. of Religious Affairs 9 Ahad Ha'am, Shalom Mayer Tower 24th floor	Between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, Sunday - Thursday, from today, Wednesday, Aug. 30, until the last date for submitting applications
Haifa - Min. of Religious Affairs 6 Hassan Shukri	Between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, Sunday - Thursday, from today, Wednesday, Aug. 30, until the last date for submitting applications
Beersheba - Ministry of Religious Affairs Sderot Shazar, Beit Ushira building	Between 9 a.m. and 12 noon, Sunday - Thursday, from today, Wednesday, Aug. 30, until the last date for submitting applications

The filled-in application forms, with the required attachments, should be sent by registered mail to "Request for Assistance," The Ministry of Religious Affairs, P.O.B. 7517, Jerusalem 91074. For public institutions, the last date for submitting applications for support from the 1995 budget is Thursday, September 14, 1995. Applications should be mailed to the above address. Applications may not be delivered by hand. Applications submitted after the above date will not be considered.

The attention of those submitting applications is drawn to the changes in the procedures for submitting applications, in the documents to be attached to applications, and in the particulars and data to be provided with applications, as detailed in the general section of the criteria, in the amended version.

In addition, the Ministry advises those concerned that it presently engaged in a detailed examination of all the costs, involved in all the types of activity it supports, the intention being to make it possible to put the Ministry's support operations on an equitable basis that will be fair to all the institutions receiving support. The Ministry requests the cooperation of the institutions, when contacted by its representatives, and by the company preparing the survey.

Those submitting applications are asked to obtain a receipt for the registered letter containing their application.

The Ministry reserves the right to utilize all or part of its budget for support activities, for activities carried out by it directly, or by the religious councils.

Dr. Gershon Metzger
Director-General

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY ISRAEL ALUMNI
RABBI AHARON LICHTENSTEIN
Rosh Yeshivat Har Etzion
will deliver a shiur in memory of his parents
on
מתנות כהנים וזקנים ודלקם בארץ
on
Thursday, August 31, 1995 at 8:00 p.m. at
The Caroline and Joseph S. Gruss Institute
40 Rehov Duvdevani, Bayit Vegan, Jerusalem
Sources available on request by fax from: Rabbi Michael Strick 02-431688
This shiur is in Hebrew

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Recorded Information: 03-5663656 (24 hours)

Mr. Arafat, don't touch Jerusalem, you will burn your hands!
Ulrich Hartmann

האזנה מאלו